

FINANCIAL TIMES

EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

Friday August 28 1987

Commerce not made
welcome at
the bank, Page 16

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World News

Business Summary

Spain orders strikers to ease flights chaos

Spanish authorities ordered Barcelona air traffic controllers to expand minimum services during a 24-hour strike tomorrow to avoid a repeat of airport chaos that affected thousands of holidaymakers this week.

A Civil Aviation spokeswoman said controllers would be required to handle all international charter flights and open one more sector between Barcelona and the Balearic Islands.

Controllers were due to meet last night and today to decide whether they would accept the mandatory expansion of services. Page 2

Progress on arms ban

Disarmament experts in Geneva reported substantial progress in drafting a global convention to ban chemical weapons, due mainly to acceptance of comprehensive inspections by the Soviet Union.

Pakistan violence

At least 28 people were killed as ethnic violence between Pakistan's孟加拉 and Pathan communities flared from Karachi to Hyderabad. Troops imposed curfews on the two cities.

Poindexter to retire

Retired Admiral John P. Poindexter, the former national security adviser who resigned after the Iran-Contra scandal broke, has submitted a request to retire from the Navy this autumn, Pentagon officials said yesterday.

Shuttle test fails

A critical first full-scale test of a revised US space shuttle rocket was aborted yesterday with less than 20 seconds to go before the firing was to begin.

New Japanese rocket

Japan used a new, powerful, three-stage rocket to place an experimental multi-purpose satellite in orbit.

Strike leaders seized

Police began arresting leftist organizers of the Philippines' transport strike as support for the protest waned and minibus returned to the streets.

Chinese currency curb

China put into effect tough new regulations aimed at tightening control of its foreign debt, with strict penalties for those who kept unauthorised bank accounts abroad. Page 3

Peruvian demo

Several people were injured and 20 were arrested when demonstrators fought in the main square of Arequipa, Peru's second city, as government plans to nationalise private banks were denounced at a rally attended by tens of thousands.

Imperial Palace attack

At least five home-made rockets were fired into the grounds of the Japanese Imperial Palace in Tokyo from the back of a truck truck but no one was hurt. Police blamed left-wing radicals.

Soviet AIDS tests

One million people had been tested for AIDS in the Soviet Union and 102 carriers of the virus detected - including 80 foreigners - a health official said.

Tunisia trial adjourned

A group of 92 Islamic activists were accused of plotting to overthrow the Tunisian Government and planting bombs in tourist hotels when their trial opened and was adjourned in Tunis. Page 2

Punjab killer shot

Punjabi police shot dead the leader of a Sikh extremist gang believed to have killed six relatives of Indian Home Minister But Singh.

Hacker phone cheats

Dutch computer hackers discovered a way of making international telephone calls at Spain's expense by cracking the code used by Telefonica, the state telephone company.

CONTENTS

Europe	2	Currencies	25
Companies	19	Editorial comment	14
America	4	Entertainment	16
Companies	17	Events	16
Overseas	3	Euro-options	26
Companies	18	Financial Futures	25
World Trade	4	Gold	24
Britain	6-9	Intl Capital Markets	15
Companies	20-23	Letters	15
Agriculture	34	Manufacturing	5
Arts Review	10,11	Market Monitors	26
World Guide	10	Men and Markets	14
Crossword	25	Money Markets	25
		Raw Materials	26
		Stock markets - Bourses	25-26
		- Wall Street	25-26
		- London	25-26
		Technology	12
		Unit Trusts	26-29
		Weather	16
		World Index	25

Sweden launches Nobel Industries inquiry

BY KEVIN DONE, NORDIC CORRESPONDENT, IN STOCKHOLM

SWEDISH competition authorities are investigating Nobel Industries and its arms and explosives subsidiary, Bofors, over its commercial links with a group of European military explosives manufacturers because of alleged cartel activities.

The inquiry has been triggered by damaging evidence of widespread cartel operations in the European explosives industry, uncovered as part of the exhaustive investigation by Swedish customs agents into arms and explosives smuggling to the Middle East by Bofors.

Documents indicate that Sir John Harvey-Jones, (right), ex-ICI chairman, took action to prohibit executives from its subsidiary, Nobel Explosive, from taking part in alleged cartel meetings

THE European suppliers that were members of one or more of the cartels during the years 1981-85, the period covered by the Swedish customs investigation, include a subsidiary of ICI



cern, Societe Nationale des Poudres et Explosifs of France, declined to comment yesterday. ICI said its policy was that company employees should not be involved in any activity of this kind.

The NO documents and memorandum indicate that Sir John Harvey-Jones, former chairman of ICI, took action in 1984 to prohibit executives from Nobel Explosives Company, its wholly owned subsidiary, from any legal taking part in activities of members of the alleged cartels.

The Swedish customs investigation centred on the role of Bofors and other companies in supplying explosives to Iran, but according to the NO memorandum the seized documents also show that these companies were members of one or more of the cartels during the years 1981-85, the period covered by the Swedish customs investigation.

The seized documents are handwritten reports by Bofors sales and marketing executives of the clubs held in various European cities during the period 1981-85.

Now publicly available in Sweden, they show how the cartel members met to decide: • which company should get new orders; • that all orders over 10 tons should be a matter for consultation;

Leave Greece to the others, Page 14

Continued on Page 16

Thousands dismissed as S African miners step up strike action

BY JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

ANGLO AMERICAN, South Africa's biggest mining company and one selected by the industry's labour council, yesterday sacked 16,000 men following the decision by the National Union of Mine Workers (NUM) to continue its 18-day-old strike.

The sackings came at two gold mines and two collieries, and another 2,500 men were threatened with dismissal by the weekend if they failed to return to work today. An NUM spokesman said the dismissals and employment of non-union labour are designed to "break the strike".

TOKYO: Chemicals and pharmaceuticals took the Nikkei average to a record in heavy volume. The index climbed 98.03 to 25,988.78 as investors sought stocks with lower foreign exchange risks. Page 36

LONDON: Equities succumbed to the overnight fall on Wall Street and moved quietly lower in erratic nervous trading. The market was also unsettled by today's announcement of trade figures for July. The FTSE index shed 3.8 at 2,945.8 and the FT Ordinary index was down 3.1 at 1,755.1. Details Page 32

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 26.79 at 2,675.06. Page 36

GOLD fell in London to \$454.75 from \$457.75. It also fell in Zurich to \$456.00 from \$457.75. Page 24

DM/L: CLOSER closed in New York at DM1,8095, SF1,4828, Y1417.5, and FF1,05. It fell in London to DM1,8130 (DM1,8250), SF1,4830 (SF1,5035); and FF1,0575 (FF1,025); and Y1418.5 (Y1430.5). On Bank of England figures, the dollar's exchange rate index fell from 101.8 to 101.1. Page 25

STERLING closed in New York at \$1,630. It rose in London to \$1,6290 (\$1,6170) and DM2,9500 (DM2,9500), but was unchanged at SF1,4225, FF1,9875 and Y231.70. The pound's exchange rate index rose 0.3 to 72.3. Page 25

S.G. WARBURG securities (Japan) contested the widely-held view that the Japanese stock market is highly overvalued based on price-earnings ratios. Page 36

EMS-CHEMIE Holding, Swiss chemical concern, is to propose a dividend increase and a double rights issue at its October 19 shareholders' meeting. Page 19

TOYOTA MOTOR reported unaudited pre-tax profits of Y398,016 in the year to June 30, 1987, down 1.6 per cent from the previous year. Net profits were 1.6 per cent lower to 30,216. Page 16

BOLIDEN, Swedish mining, metals, and chemicals group, has acquired the Spanish mining company Andalucia de Piritas from Banco Central, one of the leading Spanish commercial banks, for an undisclosed sum. Page 18

News International, the UK arm of News Corporation, Mr Rupert Murdoch's communications group, yesterday reported sharply higher profits for the last financial year as the company took the benefits of the move to new technology at its production plant at Wapping, east London.

Pre-tax profits for the year to the end of June soared to £11.5m (£180m), compared with £10.7m for the previous year when the company carried the full £87m cost of the move to Wapping.

News International transferred to new technology early last year in the teeth of intense legal battles with the print unions.

Last year's figures reflected a full 12 months of production savings at Wapping, while the previous year included only the first 22 weeks.

wounded as automatic gunfire broke out in the early morning darkness.

The rebellion is the fifth launched against President Aquino's authority since after four years over 18 months ago from forces. President Ferdinand Marcos hastily left the Philippines to refuge in Hawaii. This is the most serious challenge since dissident troops tried to seize military installations last January in what the government said was a bid to restore Mr Marcos to power.

I'd like to tell our people that first of all I am all right and General Fidel Ramos (the armed forces chief) is top of the situation," Mrs Aquino said. "In a few hours we can resolve this," she added.

At least seven people were reportedly killed and about 30

no. Only hours before the mutiny police had begun cracking down on left-wing union leaders in a show of government determination.

General Ramos said that between 200 and 300 rebels had moved in from government garrisons in northern Luzon, the main Philippines island which includes Manila.

Shooting broke out near President Aquino's palace and dissidents also tried to take over a government television station, according to loyalist forces.

To thwart the dissidents, tanks mounted with searchlights and backed by presidential guards and other troops

Continued on Page 16

Murdoch reaps new-tech profit

BY CLARE PEARSON IN LONDON AND BRUCE JACQUES IN SYDNEY

Mr Peter Sterrenburger, News International's finance director, said production savings accounted for the major part of the boost in profitability, although increased advertising income ate to a lesser extent increased circulation had also

soared, with after-tax profits emerging 51 per cent higher at A\$366.4m on a 39 per cent turnover rise to A\$3.05bn.

News International's retail outlets excluded an A\$42m extraordinary profit mainly reflecting the sale of the company's Australian television stations.

Pre-tax earnings from Australia and the Pacific Basin jumped from A\$66.8m to A\$114.2m (US\$81.6), reflecting consolidation of The Herald and Weekly Times, which the company purchased in March, and the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post, bought last December.

The US operations achieved the lowest percentage pre-tax profit rise - from A\$295.1m to A\$366.7m. However, directors said strong results came from Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation and CBS Fox Video.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Spain promises action to counter air strike

BY DAVID WHITE IN MADRID

CHARTER OPERATORS, hoteliers and airport authorities were briefing themselves yesterday for a repeat of last weekend's holiday chaos, although the Spanish Transport Ministry said it would try to avert "by any means" the threatened strike by Barcelona air traffic controllers.

The main association of tourist hotels, Zentur, appealed to the Government for urgent measures to protect the holiday trade following the breakdown

of talks on Wednesday night between Mr Manuel Mederos, Spain's director of civil aviation, and air controllers' representatives.

Mr Mederos was quoted as saying that the authorities would increase minimum service requirements in the event of another 24-hour strike this Saturday in view of the unexpected impact the controllers' action had last weekend, especially on the British charter business to Majorca and the unsuccessfully to persuade them to

beach resorts of eastern Spain. The tighter minimum service provisions would be aimed at a more rapid return to normal level by the main air traffic controllers' union in a meeting in July.

The controllers at Barcelona's El Prat airport gave the Government until tonight to come up with a proposal to settle their claim for back-payment of extra pay of some Pta 10,000 (\$50) a month due to them since 1979. The special payments were dropped when responsibility was transferred from the Air Ministry to the civilian authori-

ties. After contradictory verdicts by local courts in response to controllers' claims — in Barcelona's case going against the plaintiffs — the Government agreed to refer the dispute to the Supreme Court, whose decision is expected shortly.

The Barcelona controllers say that the Government is simply using delaying tactics. A further strike is threatened on September 5 if their demand is not met.

Currency dealer at VW held

POLICE INVESTIGATING an alleged multi-million dollar currency swindle at Volkswagen have arrested a third currency dealer there, Reuters reports from Wiesbaden. A statement from the Federal Criminal Office in Wiesbaden said the VW dealer, who was not named, was arrested on Tuesday.

"The arrested man is urgently suspected of involvement in breach of trust to the disadvantage of Volkswagen AG in connection with currency deals which led to a total loss of around DM 450m (\$162m)," it said.

VW's former chief dealer, Mr Burkhard Junger, sacked in March, was arrested on embroilment charges the following month shortly after the losses became known.

A financial scandal came to light when VW's banking partners, including the National Bank of Hungary, refused to honour forward foreign exchange contracts, alleging they were forged.

A second dealer, Mr Lutz Quatril, was arrested in June, two months after VW sacked him.

Mr Joachim Schmidt, a currency broker, is being sought by prosecutors investigating the losses, the police statement said. Mr Schmidt has been missing since news of the losses broke in March.

Police have also seized documents from a secretary of the president of West Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, on suspicion that he had information to Mr Schmidt.

The police said a large part of the investigation so far has been concentrated abroad, especially in Switzerland. Swiss authorities have seized documents relating to Mr Schmidt at finance companies near Zurich and passed them to West German investigators.

Hungarian authorities, helped by West German officials, also carried out investigations at the Hungarian national bank although there is no agreement on such assistance between Hungary and West Germany, the statement said.

Depressed industrial regions seek better deal from the EC

BY HAZEL DUFFY

REPRESENTATIVES of the industrial regions in decline in the European Community are seeking a meeting with Mr Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, to lobby for a better deal from the European Regional Development Fund.

The regions are concerned that they will be affected adversely by the plans for a full internal market by 1992, which they will benefit better-off regions like south-east England.

At the same time, they say that they stand to lose out if Commission proposals for a re-

allocation of the fund should be adopted. These call for 30 per cent of the fund to go to less developed regions in the Community, mainly in Greece, Portugal, Spain, Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK; Nord Pas de Calais in France; North Rhine-Westphalia in West Germany; Hainaut and Wallonia in Belgium; Asturias, Catalonia, Picos Basque in Spain. Piedmont, in Italy, has observer status.

Italy topped the list for Fund payments in 1986, followed by the UK and Spain. The Social Fund is also an important source of funds for the regions of industrial decline.

Representatives in the Association of Traditional Industrial Regions in Europe say that they want to put forward "positive proposals" to Mr Delors. These would include aid for small companies, support for new technology, training, regeneration of the en-

vironment and modernisation of the worn-out infrastructure.

Members of the association include Lancashire, Strathclyde (Scotland), South and West Yorkshire, and the West Midlands in the UK; Nord Pas de Calais in France; North Rhine-Westphalia in West Germany; Hainaut and Wallonia in Belgium; Asturias, Catalonia, Picos Basque in Spain. Piedmont, in Italy, has observer status.

MADONNA IS SWEEPING the pop music world before her, but she had to come to France to score a political success. The rock idol from Michigan had made her latest convert not among the aging trendies like Culture Minister Francois Leotard. Madonna has gone right to the top, and won the heart of Mr Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister. Mr Chirac has allowed himself to be photographed in sweatshirt and jeans, with headphones and a boyish grin. He has, it is rumoured, intervened personally with the stick-in-the-mud mayor of Sezanne who did not want Madonna's concert to go ahead in his municipal stadium tomorrow night. To cap it all, he announced that he is lowering the rate of value added tax on records from its current 25 per cent to 18.5 per cent.

To blame for the transformation is Mr Chirac's daughter Claude. She claims to have taken Papa to one side and played him her records, convincing him of Madonna's artistic merits.

Political commentators, of course, are quick to discount self-styled explanations, and link the cult to Madame's reign to the cult of Mr Chirac's image with a parallel effort to portray his rival, President Francois Mitterrand, as old and doddering.

But Mr Chirac may be walking on treacherous ground. He is responsible for the death earlier this year of TV6, the television channel devoted mainly to music.

The decision to axe away TV6's transmission allotment to the nationalist M6 was taken by the formally independent Council for Communication and Freedom but scarcely a soul in France doubts that it was dictated from the Prime Minister's office.

French rock musicians have not

forgiven Mr Chirac for this blow, and are growing distinctly restive at his failure to live up to a subsequent promise to create a new waveband for a music television station.

Madonna tops chart for Chirac

BY GEORGE GRAHAM IN PARIS

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Mr Chirac's speech in the town of Elektrostal, 40 miles east of Moscow, was published in extracts by the party daily in appeared in full in the relatively obscure Education Ministry newspaper, Uchitelskaya Gaveta, and the Moscow region publication, Lenin'skoye Znamya.

Among passages omitted from Pravda's text was an attack on Pravda's exploiting Mr Gorbachev's drive for glasnost (openness). "Some people are trying to use glasnost to settle personal accounts and are practising verbiage," Mr Ligachev said.

In another sentence excised from Pravda's text was an attack on Pravda's exploiting Mr Gorbachev's drive for glasnost (openness). "Some people are trying to use glasnost to settle personal accounts and are practising verbiage," Mr Ligachev said.

It is the culmination of an unprecedented crackdown on Islamic militants, who are posing as revolutionaries challenging the Government of President Habib Bourguiba since the blood riots of January 1984. About 400 people have been sentenced in recent months to jail terms of up to six months for illegal assembly, distributing illegal pamphlets and insulting the head of state.

These remarks identified Mr Ligachev as a firm supporter of Pravda's critics alarmed by the Soviet media's increasingly frank discussion of Stalin's repression and by the scorn poured on the failings of Brezhnev's rule.

Mr Ligachev has also voiced Orthodox views on cultural issues, asserting the need for strict party control over the arts. He has offered less than ardent rock musicians have not

forgiven Mr Chirac for this blow, and are growing distinctly restive at his failure to live up to a subsequent promise to create a new waveband for a music television station.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Botha to introduce restrictions on independent press

BY JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

THE BOTHA Government is to introduce additional press restrictions today to curb newspapers it says are "generating support for revolutionary organisations."

The new restrictions were not specified by Mr Stoffel Botha, Minister of Communications and Home Affairs. However, they were widely believed to aim at independent left-leaning newspapers such as the Weekly Mail, New Nation and South Africa.

In parliament yesterday Mr Botha said the new restrictions were needed because the newspapers and news agencies in question "showed complete contempt for the allowed press values established over centuries."

He said the Government was compelled to act because the outlawed African National Congress had said it would use the press to bring about revolution in South Africa.

Though Mr Botha said the offending newspapers were to the left and right of the political spectrum, he did not mention any of South Africa's ultra-right and neo-Nazi organisations.

In another development Mr Rian Ecksteen has denied rumours that he is to be replaced as director-general of the South African Broadcasting Corporation. The rumours have been growing since Mandla Langa, the government-controlled television's 11 minutes coverage to Mr Allan Hendricks, the Labour Party leader, in the evening's prime news slot. Mr Hendricks, who is a Coloured, explained why he had quit President Botha's Cabinet.

According to unconfirmed reports from SABC staff members the news team had been instructed to carry additional coverage of letters to Mr Hendricks from President Botha.

Tunisian trial fails to halt radical groups

BY FRANCIS GHIES IN TUNIS

TUNISIA'S LARGEST trial of radical Islamic activists in four years started yesterday at the state security court in Tunis. The trial of 92 activists, who are accused of threatening state security and could face the death penalty if convicted, was immediately adjourned until next Thursday.

It is the culmination of an unprecedented crackdown on Islamic militants, who are posing as revolutionaries challenging the Government of President Habib Bourguiba since the blood riots of January 1984. About 400 people have been sentenced in recent months to jail terms of up to six months for illegal assembly, distributing illegal pamphlets and insulting the head of state.

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forgiven Mr Chirac for this blow, and are growing distinctly restive at his failure to live up to a subsequent promise to create a new waveband for a music television station.

Some activists linked up with the Hibz al-Tahrir al-Islamiya (Islamic Liberation Party), a group founded in Jordan in 1945 which believes in restoring an Islamic state by violent means and whose headquarters are believed to be in West Germany.

Faced with these disparities groups the task of the police is not easy. Nor is it helped by the many changes which have occurred among senior Government officials in recent times, such as the dismissal of Mr Mohammed M Zaid, the former Prime Minister, last year.

The radical Islamic groups do not present a real threat to the Tunisian regime. Unlike their Egyptian equivalents who send deputies to

The radical Islamic groups do not present today a real threat to the Tunisian regime... They do not have any real influence let alone power in education, the police or civil service. But they are symbolic of widespread political frustration.

Parliament, the Tunisian groups do not have any real influence, let alone power in education, the police or civil service. But they are symbolic of widespread political frustration.

In recent years opposition newspapers have often been suspended or banned, their leaders put under house arrest or in prison, with a seemingly endless series of trials, the result of which has been to make the Government look indecisive and at times downright ridiculous. The trades union movement, Union Generale des Travailleurs de Tunisie (UGTT), by far the best established in Africa, has seen its influence severely curtailed, and this weakening has played a role in the rise of the more radical Islamic groups.

Meanwhile many members of the armed forces have spent their time "placing themselves in a position for a succession which they have been anxiously awaiting these past 15 years. Such a climate can only encourage a resort to violence. The need for more dialogue, for new and younger faces in the Cabinet, in other words, for an end to the domination of power of the old PSD guard—has never been more keenly felt.

can get just 1 per cent of the Sch 900bn which is at the moment wrapped up in savings, we will be pleased," says Dr Reges, who is hoping that the Austrian shareholding population will increase to 400,000 over the next two or three years. He also thinks that people must become more aware of the long-term consequences of the privatisation programme which will lead to unemployment and substantial decreases in fringe benefits and pensions. "People must understand that buying shares will give them capital for the future."

But who is putting this message across? Certainly not the government. There's none of the razzmatazz of Mrs Thatcher's appeal for a share-owning democracy. No billboards and posters urge Helmut, Otto or Gerhard to buy shares in, for example, Laenderbank, the country's third largest bank, which will be partly sold to the public. The newspapers are practically silent, television and radio uninformative.

Dr Reges knows it will take time for Austrians to change existing attitudes to responsibilities and rewards, to look towards the future and to make their own choices about how they invest their savings. Autumn will be a first step. The pundits are already predicting a "politically hot" few months ahead.

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Judy Dempsey reports from Vienna on the uncertain prospects for privatisation

Austrians shrink from risky capitalism

THIS AUTUMN, the Austrian government will launch its own version of popular ownership. The problem though, it seems, will be getting the populace to participate.

Austrian privatisation will not be of the type carried out by the Thatcher government in Britain, where share-buying is an old-established tradition. The Austrian brand is more limited, more cautious, more politically charged.

But after years of the state managing, often badly, large parts of the country's industry and recording huge losses, the Socialist-led coalition government has decided that the state must step back and the tax-payer must stop featherbedding industry. The Government has already allocated Sch 32bn (£16bn) of taxpayers' money to cover losses in state-run industry between 1986 and 1990.

Dr Franz Vranitzky, the Socialist Chancellor and a former finance minister, has reached a compromise with his own party. The state will retain 51 per cent of its interest in state-run industries received generous bonuses, good salaries, excellent fringe benefits and handsome pension schemes, which combined, created the image of a paternalist state caring for its citizens. "There was no fear of unemployment. The state would always bail loss-making industries out of

trouble," one senior banker is going to be a long struggle to persuade the other nine-nine in to pull their money out of risk-free bonds and savings accounts and to shake off years of being protected by the state.

Part of the reluctance is historical caution. Mr Anton Berger, director of the securities department in the Erste Spar Kasse bank in Vienna says these attitudes stem from the experiences of the two World Wars. "The Austrians lost their empire after 1918 and lost everything again after 1945. They had to rebuild from scratch. They looked for security for certainty. They didn't want to think of risk."

Post-war Austrian governments, especially those formed after the four powers withdrew from Austria in 1955, helped to foster this feeling of certainty and stability. Successive governments protected the state-run industries and neglected the role of capital formation.

Over the years, employees in state-run industries received generous bonuses, good salaries, excellent fringe benefits and handsome pension schemes, which combined, created the image of a paternalist state caring for its citizens. "There was no fear of unemployment. The state would always bail loss-making industries out of

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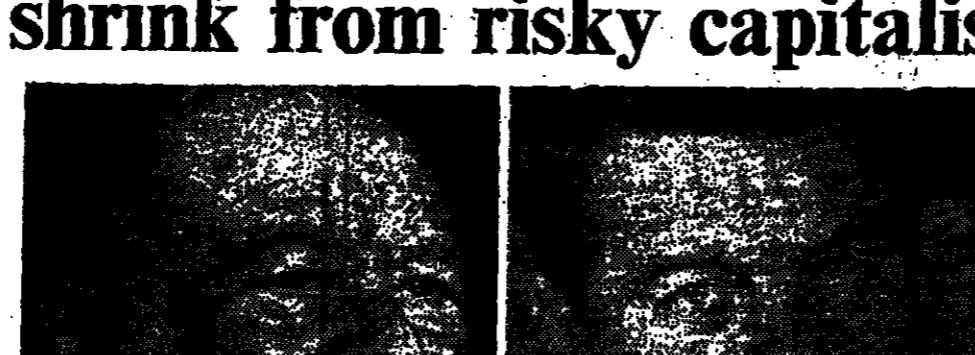
But attitudes of risk-aversion have to be changed. Dr Alfred Reges, head of securities at Creditanstalt, Austria's largest bank, thinks the anti-risk-taking, besides being linked to the past, is also linked to previous government's economic policies. "Yields were very high on savings books and government bonds. People were receiving between 6 and 8 per

cent interest. There was no need to buy shares which were considered to be too risky." Furthermore, dividends were subjected to double taxation which was no incentive to the small investor.

Over the past year, however,

double taxation has been abolished and the yields on government bond savings have been reduced, all in an attempt to make share buying a more attractive proposition. "If we receive a 6 per cent yield on a share, it is still better than a 6 per cent yield on a government bond," says Dr Reges. "The yields are now comparable." The new rules are practical, television and radio informative.

Dr Reges knows it will take time for Austrians to change existing attitudes to responsibilities and rewards, to look towards the future and to make their own choices about how they invest their savings. Autumn will be a first step. The pundits are already predicting a "politically hot" few months ahead.



Kreisky and Vranitzky: Socialist chancellors with differing views on role of state

OVERSEAS NEWS

Israel lifts curbs on Palestinian EC exports

By Andrew Whitley in Jerusalem

THE ISRAELI Government, under renewed pressure from the European Community, has backed down from its adamant refusal to permit agricultural produce from the occupied Arab territories to be exported to EC markets through Israeli ports.

But Jerusalem is still determined to maintain control over the potential exports—estimated at an annual volume of approximately \$20m—through the establishment of a new marketing organisation in the territories.

A three-man ministerial committee composed of Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, Mr Avieh Nehamkin, the Agriculture Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister responsible for the West Bank and Gaza Strip regions, agreed on Wednesday to relax a 15-year ban on allowing Palestinian produce to compete with Israeli exports.

This followed a renewed appeal to the Israeli Government earlier this week from the European Commission, not to block the implementation of an EC directive last October giving access on favourable terms for fruit and vegetables from the occupied territories.

Until now Israel has insisted that by law all fresh produce sent through Israeli ports had to be handled by one or two state marketing organisations, the Citrus Marketing Board or Agroex, which handles all non-citrus items. An exception to this rule was exports to Eastern Europe where Israeli produce is not present.

Crackdown ordered in South Korea

MR KIM CHUNG-YUL, the South Korean Prime Minister, yesterday ordered a crackdown on what he called "radical left forces" in the country. Richard Gourlay reports from Seoul.

The Government has become increasingly concerned about radical left-wing agitation since the National Coalition Democratic Constitution anti-government group allegedly interfered in a strike at Daewoo Shipyard.

A worker was killed by shrapnel from a teargas canister fired by riot police protecting Daewoo management last weekend. The shelling, strike and a dispute between the dead worker's family, the strikers and the NCDC activists over funeral arrangements was resolved peacefully late on Wednesday.

In his statement after a Cabinet meeting, Mr Kim said leftist forces are trying to overthrow the nation's democratic system.

In a related move, the Ministry of Justice said yesterday that it had set up a special investigation unit and was holding about 60 suspected leftists for interrogation.

Observers say there were few radical students in the demonstrations in June which led to the democratic reforms and that radicals in the universities are only a vocal minority. So far union strikes have been non-political.

Tony Walker reports on the ramifications of a new assertiveness after Mecca riots

Iranian threats exhaust Saudi patience

WHEN PRINCE Nayef bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Arabia's interior minister, referred in a briefing with the foreign Press this week to events in the Arabian peninsula 64 years ago it merely served to underline the seriousness with which the Saudi royal family views the challenge to its position posed by the recent incident at Mecca.

Prince Nayef, who has been at the forefront of an uncharacteristically assertive Saudi campaign against Iran since the July 31 episode in which more than 400 people died, invoked the memory of his father, Ibn Saud, the founder of Saudi Arabia. It was Saud who in 1925 took control of Islam's most sacred shrine.

"Not a single flaw," Prince Nayef declared, "has marred the purity of the pilgrimage over the last 64 years (since) King Abdul Aziz established law and order in this land, save for what some Iranian pilgrims did during the pilgrimage that has just ended."

Saudi Arabia's interior minister later warned that Iranians may be excluded next year from participating in the Hajj to Saudi Arabia if threatened to attack all mosques.

Asked to comment on reports that Iran was planning to send half a million revolutionary guards to Mecca next year, Prince Nayef said that if these reports were correct it would constitute an invasion of Saudi Arabia.

"You do not expect any government to keep its seaports and airports open to the invader," he said.

Observers in the kingdom are asking whether Saudi Arabia's virulent public denunciation of its handling of the Mecca riot, in which 275 Iranian pilgrims died, many trampled to death, signals an important shift in the conduct of its foreign policy or whether



Prince Nayef: purity of the pilgrimage

its current assertiveness is an aberration.

Views differ among Saudi intellectuals and foreign observers over consequences of the Mecca episode, but all three interviewed said that it had joined the royal family into a realisation that previous attempts to preserve elements of a working relationship with revolutionary Iran had failed.

Saudi rulers were particularly troubled, it is said, by what were seen as vicious Iranian attacks on their historical claim to be custodians of Mecca and Medina. The legitimacy of their rule rests in part on this claim.

In a criticism of the personal lifestyle of the Saudi royal family, who are highly sensitive about allegations of profligacy and moral corruption

tion, also helped to provoke a bitter reaction. "I think the Saudi government is fed up — at a time of the year when Mecca is host to more than 1m pilgrims."

This loss of patience or, as it is being described in some quarters, uncharacteristic display of emotion, is reflected in local newspapers which appear to be attempting to outdo each other in the level of vitriol directed at Iran. Saudi journalists say that for the first time they have given carte blanche to attack Iran.

"They've really pulled the stops out," said a foreign official. "Every day there's a new revelation. It's been quite a tough campaign."

This week the Saudi press splashed on its front pages photographs of Saudi Arabia's ransacked mission in Tehran.

Riyadh has been particularly annoyed by the death of one of its officials in Tehran from injuries received when an Iranian mob stormed the embassy. This episode appears to have stirred almost as much anger in the Kingdom as the Mecca incident itself.

Saudi officials are continuing to insist that no shots were fired at Mecca. Prince Nayef repeated this assertion to the foreign press this week. But independent accounts strongly suggest that shots were fired when it seemed that Iranian demonstrators were threatening to break through a police cordon and enter the precincts of the Grand Mosque.

Saudi Arabia's national guard, composed of Bedouin tribesmen, is known to have been on hand in Mecca because of fears of planned demonstrations getting out of control. It would be surprising if this elite unit was not employed when it seemed that the Grand Mosque itself was threatened.

The 1979 episode in which 500 extremists, led by a Saudi citizen from a well-known family, occupied Islam's most sacred

shrine, demonstrated the vulnerability of the holy places to a determined plan of disruption at a time of the year when Mecca is host to more than 1m pilgrims.

Saudi Arabia's new assertiveness was demonstrated in Tunis at the weekend when Prince Saud al-Faisal urged his fellow Arab foreign ministers to adopt "unanimous and practical decisions to meet the challenges and obstinacy of the Tehran regime."

Prince Saud proposed Arab-backed sanctions against Iran, but in the end Arab League

Iran's criticism of the personal lifestyle of the Saudi royal family, who are highly sensitive about allegations of profligacy and moral corruption, also helped to provoke a bitter reaction

fellow ministers, at the urging of Syria, adopted a resolution giving Iran until September 20 to comply with United Nations Security Council calls for a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

The Arab League resolution did not spell out specific action proposed against Iran if it failed to comply, but Chedli Klibi, the League's secretary general, said that "Tehran refuses to submit to the will of the international community, we would find ourselves obliged to revise our relations" with Iran.

Saudi Arabian officials say they were satisfied with the outcome of the Tunis meeting, even though the Arab League resolution fell short of Saudi demands for diplomatic action against Iran. These officials regard the Tunis resolution as a step towards building an Arab

consensus on ways to deal with Iran.

The main effect of the Mecca riot, according to observers here, was to dispel any illusions that may have been held about the determination of elements in Iran to cause disruption in states on the Arab side of the Gulf, especially in those countries crucial to Iraq's ability to continue prosecuting the war.

Recent statements by Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the powerful Iranian parliamentary speaker, threatening retaliation against Iraq's Gulf allies if the Iraqi resume air strikes against economic targets on land and in the Gulf itself, have added to concerns here.

Saudi Arabia's new assertiveness may also be attributable to worries about the US naval build-up in the Gulf which is adding further to tensions. It is no secret that the Saudis were displeased with Kuwait's bold initiative to involve the super-power more directly in the Gulf by seeking protection for its tankers.

Saudi officials have shown little public enthusiasm, and even less in private for the Kuwaiti move. But they recognise that the American presence in the Gulf is now a fact of life. A western official summed up the Saudi attitude thus: "they feel, like everyone else, that if it works it's fine, if it doesn't it's a disaster."

This official believes that whether Saudi Arabia holds to its policy, it depends on circumstances. "It depends," he said "on what happens in bilateral relations with Iran. We are clearly not talking about a short term problem. The Iranians have notched up the dispute to another level. Saudi Arabia has taken up the challenge. We'll have to wait and see whether there will continue to be a ratchet effect."

Beirutis demonstrate against price rises

BY NORA BOUSTANY IN BEIRUT

SKYROCKETING prices and government pressure to remove petrol subsidies drove enraged Beirut residents onto the streets yesterday in the first such public protest against economic conditions in Lebanon.

In mainly Moslem West Beirut, young men burned tyres and blocked the road leading to Beirut airport.

Looters smashed the booths of money changers in the commercial Hamra district and carried away all the cash and banknotes they could find.

The protest march began peacefully but anger over the plummeting exchange rate of the Lebanese pound and scarce petrol supplies soon gripped the mob.

Syrian troops fired their automatic weapons in the air to disperse the crowds thronging outside the main gate of the Central Bank and chased protesters out of Hamra and its sidesstreets.

Prices for basic commodities such as sugar, milk and meat and cheese and other household items have risen by 300 per cent since January this year. Lebanon's Consumer Protection Agency, an organisation affiliated to the Ministry of Economy, said in its latest report that the worth of 4,300 Lebanese pounds a month months ago to \$16 this month.

To stall panic over the slipping exchange rate of the Lebanese pound rises in other hard currencies, the Central Bank has repeatedly abstained from pricing the Lebanese pound. A rush to Lebanese, no matter how modest their incomes, to convert their savings into dollars has added to the inflationary pressure against the Lebanese pound.

Even vegetable Barrow boys in West Beirut have their ears glued to radio stations and their hands ready with a calculator to adjust the prices of their latest produce "according to the latest fluctuation of the dollar."

"We have started to smash everything," 23-year-old Said Said said. "Today we dealt with sugar, milk and meat. Tomorrow we will deal with the supermarkets and then the homes of the politicians."

China toughens debt rules

China put into effect tough regulations yesterday aimed at tightening control of its spiraling foreign debt, with strict penalties for those who keep unauthorized bank accounts abroad. Reuter reports from Peking.

The new rules, published in the China Daily, say that all Chinese companies which want to borrow abroad must register with the State Administration of Foreign Exchange Control and get prior approval, or face stiff penalties.

China's first detailed rules for the use and repayment of foreign loans, were intended to improve management and control of the country's foreign debt. Official figures in March put China's foreign debt at \$108b, about half of it in low-interest long-term loans. Western estimates put the figure at \$23-35bn, very small for an economy as large as China's.

Wang Bingqian, the Finance Minister, said in his budget speech in March that foreign borrowing in 1987 would rise to \$3.9bn from \$2.1bn in 1986 and \$8.75m in 1985. China Daily said yesterday that a survey at the end of last year had found more than 1,700 companies and financial institutions had taken out foreign loans.

Fishing boats from China worry Taiwan

BY BOB KING IN TAIPEI

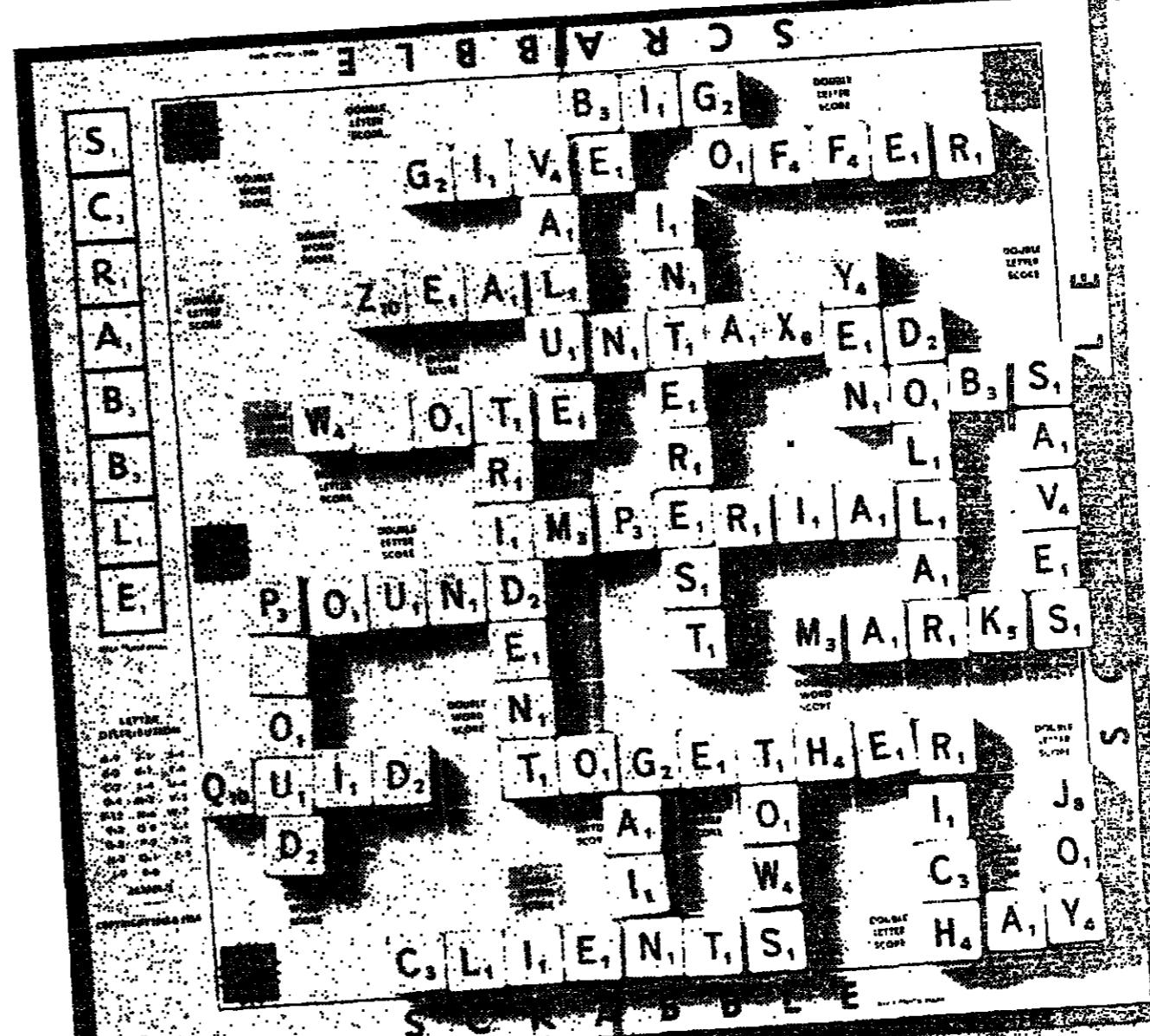
OBSERVERS IN Taiwan are puzzled by the sudden appearance of mainland Chinese fishing boats off Taiwan's coast in recent weeks and press reports of intimidation and even violence against Taiwan fishing boats to force them to hand over their catches in exchange for Chinese foodstuffs.

On Thursday, local papers reported that Taiwanese maritime patrols had intercepted three Chinese vessels off Keelung, a port just 15 miles north of Taipei. The newspapers said the Chinese vessels had left Taiwanese waters without incident after the interception.

Another report said that a Chinese vessel with around 20 men, women, and children aboard was detained Wednesday just two kilometers off the central port of Taichung. The report added that the Chinese, who expressed a wish to settle in Taiwan, were sent back to sea after their vessel had been repaired and refueled.

Chinese vessels have tra-

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WORLD TRADE NEWS

Rising wages threaten W German car exports

BY ANDREW FISHER IN FRANKFURT

RISING WAGES and the strength of the D-mark threatens a further erosion of the competitiveness of the West German motor industry, the country's automobile industry association, the VDA said yesterday.

It described the level of German wage costs, now the highest in the world based on latest currency shifts, as "a risk to be taken seriously." Further cost rises would weaken the industry's sales chances.

German manufacturers had moved steadily up-market and invested heavily in new equipment to offset their cost disadvantages, but the handicap was becoming more difficult to overcome, said the VDA. Germany's cost and currency disadvantages meant that the industry's exports this year would not quite reach the DM 86 billion level. But sales of German cars abroad were still high, totalling

HOURLY WAGE COSTS IN WORLD MOTOR INDUSTRY	
	(1986, in D-marks)
US	41.1
W. Germany	35.8
Sweden	34.4
Belgium	31.4
Japan	29.9
Netherlands	29.4
Italy	25.5
France	25.1
Britain	19.8
Spain	17.7

Figures include pay and social expenses borne by employees.

Source: German Automobile Industry Association

1.3m units in the first half of 1987, just 4 per cent below the first six months of last year.

Last year, the industry invested DM 11bn, a rise of 17 per cent over the previous year.

With total exports of DM 85.5bn, it was the country's largest exporting sector, ahead

of engineering, chemicals and electronics.

Since the end of 1986, German labour costs (including social expenses paid by companies) have become the highest in the world, the VDA said. In German currency terms, hourly wage costs are now nearly DM 36.90 against DM 34.40 for the US and DM 29.80 for Japan.

The concern expressed by the VDA follows worries over expressed recently by Volkswagen and two local subsidiaries of US groups, Ford and Opel (part of General Motors).

The VDA said German car workers put in far fewer hours than those of competitor countries even before the latest wage deal leading to a shorter working week. Some employers worked 50 per cent more than their German counterparts and those in the US 30 per cent longer.

US, Iraq sign 5-year trade expansion deal

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

US AND Iraqi officials have signed a five-year trade agreement aimed at expanding commercial ties between the two countries.

The pact, signed by Mr Clarence Brown, Acting Commerce Secretary, and Mr Mohamed Mehdia Salih, Iraqi Trade Minister, is aimed at reducing impediments to trade and investment and simplifying visa procedures for business travellers.

Mr Brown said he expected the accord, signed on Wednesday, to enhance US business opportunities in energy, agriculture, finance, transportation and investment and simplifying visa procedures for business travellers.

The pact is the third-largest market for US exports in the Arab world, after Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

In 1986, the United States imported \$473m in goods from Iraq, and exported \$527m worth. Petroleum topped the list of imports; agricultural products led the exports.

Trade with Iraq is unbalanced. The US last year bought \$560m in goods ranging from rugs to caviar to pistachio nuts. But most sales to Iraq are subject to licensing restrictions, and the US sold only \$34.1m worth in 1986, mainly elevators and construction cranes.

Washington maintained a trade embargo against Iran until 1981, when hostages taken captive at the US Embassy in Tehran were released.

The pact with Iraq is an umbrella agreement to be worked out in further talks, said Claire Buchan, Commerce Department spokeswoman. "It opens the door to co-operation in the future," she said.

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MANAGEMENT

FOR YEARS the trials and tribulations of Tootal have read like a classic account of corporate crisis. Last autumn the new Tootal management team unveiled what reads like a textbook solution for its problems.

This solution involved transforming Tootal - one of the largest British textiles groups - into a business dominated by marketing not production; and using the cash generated by that business to diversify away from textiles into more volatile areas of activity.

The first part of that strategy is now almost completed, the second has just begun.

The Tootal DC today is composed of the remnants of the textile and clothing businesses which were brought together by a series of mergers in the 1960s and 1970s, largely triggered by the economic situation at the start of that decade.

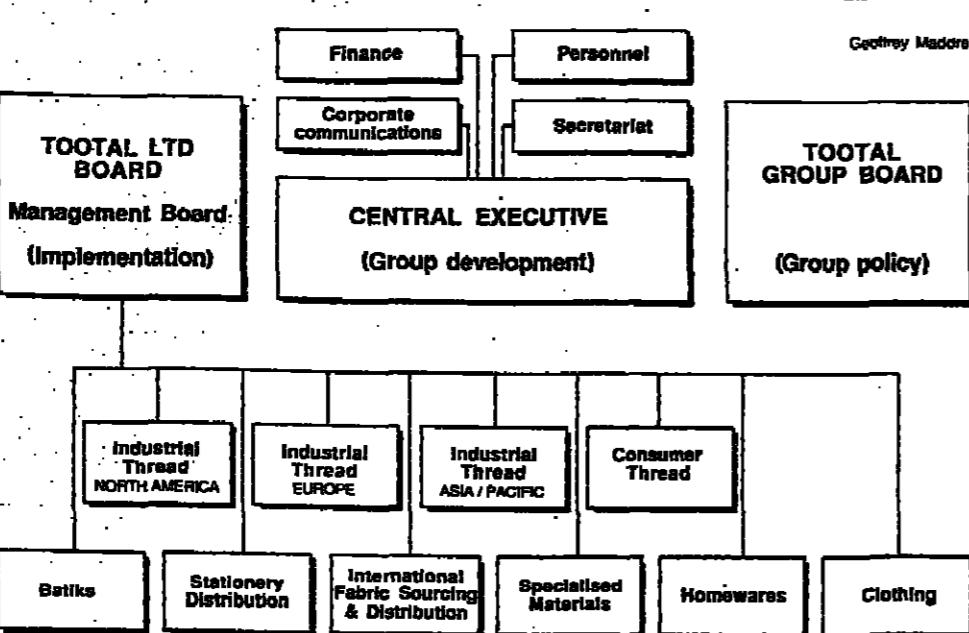
Tootal was forced to close factories and sell loss-making businesses. For the management team the priority was survival. As a result, the group was left with a rather ragged assortment of activities and benefit of some of the businesses which could have helped its recovery had it been able to hang on until conditions improved.

This scenario is only too familiar to many of the remnants of once strong British industries. But Tootal had a double dose of problems. Not only had it emerged from this crisis, the predator pounced in the guise of Entral, the Australian textile group. The bid was defeated in late 1985 - but at the cost of a year of management time.

When Geoffrey Maddrell arrived from Bowater-Scott as managing director a few months later he found a semi-nationalised management team and a company without a sense of direction. What Tootal needed was a strategist. If there was one, then no-one knew what it was or where it was leading," he says.

In many ways Maddrell, who is 31, has an obvious choice as a strategist. The textile executives of the 1960s tend to fall into two camps: the traditional market traders typified by David Alliance of Coats Viyella, or the business school economists like Courtauld's Sir Christopher Hoare. Maddrell is very much in the latter camp. He plainly perceives his work at Tootal as a personal mission; his photograph is sprinkled liberally throughout the annual report.

The framework for the new Tootal is encapsulated within the "mission statement" prepared by the new regime. This describes a "worldwide marketing organisation built upon providing a creative design service and distribution skills". The thrust of the new Tootal was to introduce those skills to the established business; the sec-



How Tootal geared itself up to pursue a marketing 'mission'

Alice Rawsthorn explains the UK textile group's latest strategy

and was to apply them to other, more fruitful fields.

Yet a company's culture does not metamorphose when its mission statement rolls off the printing press. Tootal's metamorphosis into a marketing-driven enterprise is hampered by inertia and a change in its structure and culture. The Boston Consulting Group was drafted in to act as adviser.

Hitherto the group had been divided into 50 operating companies. This posed two problems: first, the unwieldiness of running an international business across so many units, and second, the difficulty of attracting managers of a high calibre to such small businesses.

Last September it was divided into ten "strategic business units" all defined by activity.

The senior management structure has been altered accordingly. Tootal's board is now split into two tiers: a group and a management board. The former includes executive directors, who decide upon strategy, budgets, management and financial systems.

"In the old days the board was packed with barons who argued the case for their division then down to 'What's other's spike,'" says Maddrell. "This structure ensures that our decisions are objective, in that none of us has a sentimental or financial at-

tachment to the businesses."

A group of non-executive directors - led by John Craven, chief executive of the Morgan Grenfell merchant bank, as non-executive chairman - also sit on the group board, while the management board is composed of the operational heads of the divisions.

But instilling marketing awareness in a company like Tootal, which would have boasted at the concept only a few years ago, requires more than restructuring and a realignment of managerial responsibility.

The group has invested heavily in training - £300,000 will be spent this year - and is working with Cranfield School of Management to devise a training syllabus. The objective is for 100 managers to train for at least one week a year.

SALARIES have been restructured to emphasise growth and profitability. Thus senior executive bonuses are divided into two parts: one half for meeting targets, the other for mapping out objectives for the future.

Similarly the commission paid to the sales force at American Thread, the largest single-business, is now based on a combination of volume, profitability and new accounts, not volume alone.

Tootal has also attempted to improve internal communica-

tion. In the past, partly as a legacy of its crises, people tended to "do what they were told and not to ask any questions," as Maddrell put it. Information is now circulated more freely and annual conferences are organised for senior executives to keep them abreast of group developments.

The new structure has been introduced over the past year. The consensus in the City is that the theory sounds fine, but the pressure is mounting for Tootal to prove that it will work in practice, not least because it is still beset by bid rumours. The most recent roll-call of potential predators included Coats, Coloroll and Courtauld.

Thus far the new strategy has been fully implemented in only one of Tootal's industrial threads, the biggest part of the business, which provided half the group's £405m turnover last year. The new management team has yet to tackle other areas such as clothing and homewares.

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network.

American Thread's new management - headed by Richard Rinaldi, who was brought in from the autoparts industry - is now trying to drum marketing skills into the business. The benefits are already filtering through. American Thread's earnings, traditionally 7 per cent of capital employed, should creep into the low teens this year en route to the target of 20 per cent.

Maddrell uses threads as an example to illustrate how the new strategy will work. Yet in this area Tootal has the triple advantage of a dominant position; historic links with China; and a clear opportunity to steal a competitive advantage. Other areas may prove more problematic.

The group is now in the throes of completing a review of homeservices which will decide how to develop the business in the future. Similarly it plans to spruce up its clothing interests, which embrace a buoyant business supplying Marks and Spencer, Britain's largest retailer, but rather lacklustre brands in Slimma women's wear and Tootal men's wear. The Slimma brand is being strengthened with the introduction of more co-ordinated ranges. The future of men's wear is less certain. The group will continue in this field but may drop the use of "Tootal" as a brand name.

Tootal took its first step towards diversification last year with the acquisition of Sandhurst Marketing, which markets a distribution stationery and office equipment. It had looked at several prospects:

searching for companies within areas of high growth where marketing and distribution skills are crucial. At one stage it considered paper distribution, but concluded that companies like Bunn were already entrenched. Ostenibly textiles and office equipment had little in common, but addressed the same issue: is there a compatibility of discipline in that both businesses rely on the strength of their marketing and distribution skills. Future acquisitions will follow the same pattern.

Yet Tootal itself still has a long way to go before it can claim to have nurtured these skills. Maddrell argues that the acquisitions will play a dual role in that they will Tootal into more vertical fields and will introduce new management teams already well versed in the marketing disciplines so sorely needed by the established business.

Expansion through acquisition is fraught with problems, as is instilling new disciplines in old businesses. In pursuing its new strategy, the group will have to grapple with both problems. In the next year or so it should become apparent whether Tootal, and its textbook tactics, can bring it off.

Origins

'T'ain't products are boring'

Christopher Lorenz on cultural ambiguity

THE NEW Anglo-Japanese Rover Sterling car has made something of a splash in the lucrative American market, but at heart it is a "T'ain't" product.

Unlike the far more successful British car, it is culturally ambiguous. Britain is its main country of origin, but the car possesses no characteristic which could possibly identify it.

The source of this complaint is Bill Stumpf, a leading US design consultant. The Sterling is a "T'ain't" product "because it's Japanese and tain't British. And tain't products are boring," he says.

Stumpf's attack provoked intense debate in Amsterdam last week at Design '87, an international conference of 1,500 industrial, graphic and interior designers. Most of the participants echoed his criticism of the rapid emergence of an anonymous "international style" in consumer products such as cars, hi-fis and televisions.

In the mad rush by manufacturers to reach economies of scale, it is often forgotten that there are nuances in the market. Manufacturing is changing, from which it can offer a speedy service to industrial customers. When new clothing markets open up, Tootal will be able to move in swiftly at relatively low cost. Similarly, if a market loses steam, then the group will not be lumbered with expensive assets.

In theory this strategy sounds simple. In practice, it will be much more difficult to implement. Some of the established vertically integrated mills, in Australia for example, will then group to be rationalised into mini-mills. Ostensibly textiles and office equipment had little in common, but addressed the same issue: is there a compatibility of discipline in that both businesses rely on the strength of their marketing and distribution skills. Future acquisitions will follow the same pattern.

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Between these two sets of extreme views, several speakers pointed to the growing tendency of Japanese companies to design both global and regional products (or even national ones) in parallel. In the words of Kurt Weidemann, Professor of Communication at West Germany's Koblenz School of Corporate Management, "there will be no uniform style, but a new burst of pluralism."

The Rover Sterling - a "T'ain't" car

Spot the power station.

If all you can see is a mountain, that's as it should be. Because Dinorwig Power Station in North Wales was designed and built by the Central Electricity Generating Board to be concealed in the heart of a mountain.

Dinorwig is the largest pumped storage power station in Europe. It can supply electricity for several large cities for up to five hours and has the fastest response of any pumped storage scheme in the world.

For all its advanced technology the basic principles behind Dinorwig's design are easy to explain.

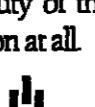
Almost seven million cubic metres of water are held in a reservoir in the mountain and released when electricity is needed.

Water cascades down tunnels and shafts within the mountain at a rate of 420,000 litres per second, driving turbines which turn a generator to produce power.

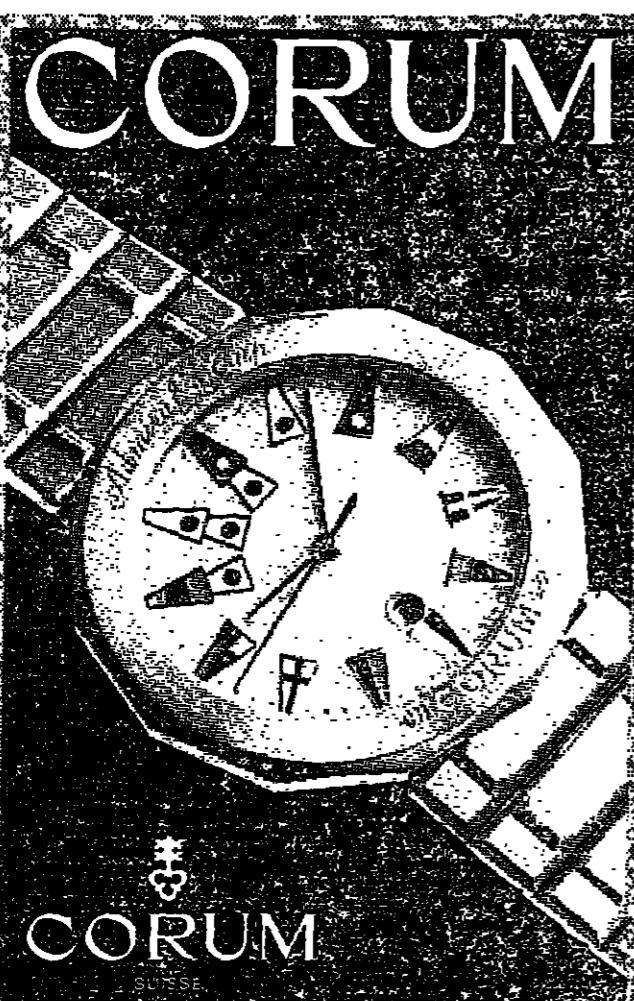
The generators can be delivering their maximum output within seconds.

The water is collected in a lower reservoir and pumped back up through the turbines at night, when electricity demand reduces, ready for re-use.

As you can see, the principle behind preserving the beauty of the environment needs no explanation at all.


ELECTRICITY
Energy for Life

UK NEWS



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Building societies to enter credit card age

By Hugo Dixon

BUILDING SOCIETIES are to be allowed to issue credit cards and engage in electronic cashless shopping after a decision by the Government to amend last year's Building Societies Act. This is likely to bring more competition into these two areas which have traditionally been dominated by banks.

The Government had originally intended societies to be able to do both things but, because of an error in drafting the Act, it turned out they could not.

When this was discovered earlier this year, both Halifax and Abbey National, Britain's two largest societies, had to face the embarrassment of withdrawing resolutions from their annual meetings asking members for permission to join Visa and Mastercard, the two main credit card companies.

The problem stemmed from the fact that the Act prevents societies from making unsecured loans of more than £5,000 to each customer. Even if societies fixed credit limits at £5,000 or less, it was theoretically possible that customers would find ways of spending more than that before the societies could stop them.

There was a similar point concerning electronic cashless shopping. The only way of preventing customers spending more than an agreed limit would have been to insist that all transactions were authorised instantaneously, but the system being designed for Britain by the clearing banks will not insist on this.

Mr Gerald Watson, deputy chairman of the Building Societies Commission, the industry's regulatory body, said yesterday that to get round this, the Treasury will lay an order before Parliament when it opens in October. He said he expected it to be debated in November, after which it would come into force.

SOCIETE GENERALE DE BELGIQUE



GENERALE MAATSCHAPPIJ VAN BELGIE

Public Limited Company
Incorporated in Brussels by Royal Decree on August 28, 1822
Registered Office: 30 rue Royale, 1000 Brussels
Trade Register Number: Brussels 17487

The Extraordinary General Meeting held on Wednesday, August 26, 1987 was not able to vote as the statutory quorum was not reached. A second meeting will consequently be held on Tuesday, September 8, 1987, at 11 a.m., in the company's reception rooms at 30 rue Royale, Brussels, with the same agenda. This second meeting will be able to vote, whatever the number of shares represented.

AGENDA

- I Capital increase
 - 1 Initial capital increase for an amount of BF 3,011,246,548 by the issue of 2,405,148 "part de réserve" shares. The amount of the capital increase and the number of "part de réserve" shares issued after June 30, 1987 and up to six days before the subscription lists open as a result of the exercise of warrants attached to the 24% 1987-94 DM bonds of Generale Internationale Finance Luxembourg - CIF S.A. These "part de réserve" shares will be identical to existing shares, except that they will only carry dividend entitlement as from January 1, 1988 and they will not enjoy the special rights and privileges temporarily linked to the 5,171,702 AFV shares issued following the Extraordinary General Meeting of October 25, 1983. They will be issued at an accounting par value of BF 1,252 plus a premium calculated in such a way that the issue price is not less than 75% of the average stock exchange price during the five months ending on the day before the price fixing, nor more than the highest stock exchange price recorded during the eight days preceding the fixing of the price, corrected to allow for the difference in dividend entitlement. They will be offered for public subscription for cash on a preferential basis, without fractions of shares being issued to holders of existing shares, including those resulting from the exercise of warrants attached to the above-mentioned bonds, in the proportion of one new share for every ten old ones. The shares must be fully paid up upon application. Charges will be borne by the company.
 - 2 A second capital increase for an amount of BF 62,600,000 maximum by the issue of 50,000 "part de réserve" shares maximum; they will be issued at the same subscription price as the shares referred to under Point 1 and will be identical to them in all respects. Report of the Board of Directors and the Examining Auditor and waiver of pre-emption rights by shareholders. These shares will be offered for subscription for cash to members of the company's staff and to managerial staff of affiliated companies in accordance with the criteria, terms and conditions laid down by the Board of Directors of the issuing company. The shares must be fully paid up upon application. Charges will be borne by the company.
 - 3 Laying down as a condition sine qua non for the capital increases that the underwriters have not exercised their option to withdraw their undertakings for any of the reasons below at the latest on the last bank working day before the subscription lists open:
 - the company is in Belgium or abroad of a political, military, economic, financial, monetary or social event liable to jeopardise the issue;
 - closure of the Brussels Stock Exchange for at least two consecutive business days;
 - a fall of more than 300 points in the general return index of Belgian shares published by the Brussels Stock Exchange Commission compared with the index on the day the underwriting agreement is signed.
 - 4 Allocation of issue premiums resulting from the above capital increases to an unavailable issue premium account which, along with other contributions, will constitute a guarantee for third parties and may only be reduced or abolished by resolution of the Extraordinary General Meeting passed in accordance with Article 72 of the Commercial Act.
 - 5 Increase of the statutory reserve by the amount required to bring it up to one-tenth of the company's new capital, by withdrawal from the available reserve.
- II Authorisation to be given to the Board of Directors:
 - to increase the company's capital by BF 20 billion in one or more instalments within a renewable period of five years by contributions in cash or in kind or by capitalisation of reserves in replacement of the balance of the authorised capital created on March 7, 1985 which was still available after allowing for the amount set aside for the exercise of outstanding warrants;
 - to issue convertible bonds or bonds with subscription rights within the limits of the authorised capital;
 - to reduce or abolish, in the company's interests, shareholders' pre-emption rights in the case of capital increases for cash or issues of convertible bonds or bonds with subscription rights.
- III Alteration of the Memorandum and Articles of Association:
 - 1 Alteration of Article 3 to update it and bring it in line with the preceding resolutions;
 - 2 Alteration of Article 32: in the first paragraph replace the words "the first Tuesday in May" by the words "the third Tuesday in June".
- IV Powers of the Board of Directors to implement resolutions adopted by the General Meeting, particularly in respect of fixing issue prices.

In order to attend this Extraordinary General Meeting, shareholders must, in accordance with Article 29 para. 3 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, deposit their shares by Tuesday, September 1, 1987 at the latest either with the company or with Banque Belge Limited.

E. DAVIGNON
Director

Brussels, August 27 1987
J. de FAUCONVAL
Director

Lucy Kellaway sees warring factions succumb to coffee and biscuits

Gas shareholders rally round board

IT SHOULD have been high drama. But yesterday's first annual meeting of British Gas was more like tedious soap opera.

Sir Denis Cooke, the company's redoubtable chairman, was prepared to face the largest collection of shareholders ever gathered in the UK and take questions on three potentially explosive issues.

But yesterday a mere 3,000 shareholders turned up at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre to taunt him. This was fewer than the turnout at British Telecom's first AGM, half the number who had said they would come, and less than one fifth the audience with which the armies of blue-coated British staff were prepared to cope.

One of the organisers was heard muttering: "What a washout" as shareholders left the three-hour meeting. Sir Denis had ample cause for relief at the way the meeting had gone.

Shareholders overwhelmingly rallied round British Gas in its opposition to the appointment to the board of Sir Ian MacGregor, the former coal board chief who had been nominated by Sheffield Forgemasters, the company leading a band of protesting industrial gas customers.

Throughout, Sir Denis was polite and, with one or two brief lapses, held his cool. The fiery chairman, who told an analyst asking an awkward question at a pre-flootation meeting to "get knotted," was not in evidence yesterday.

Instead, Sir Denis appeared as a diminutive figure standing on the stage of the cavernous auditorium, flanked by twin video screens displaying a much blown-up image of a

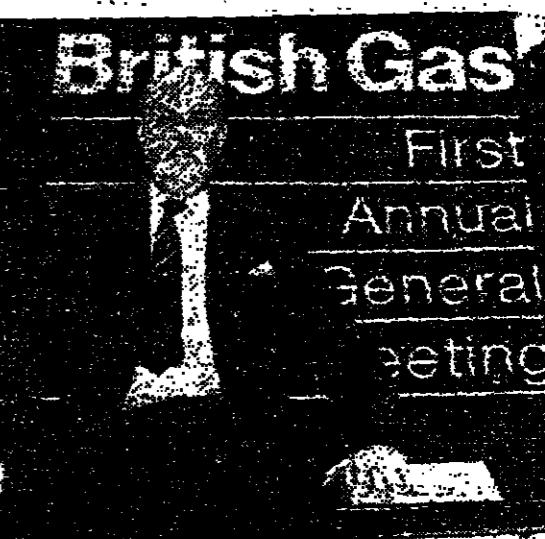
patient if severe chairman. He answered the most objectionable inquiries with: "I don't actually entirely agree with what you say, but we shall bear your comments in mind."

It was hard not to feel sorry for the organiser of the meeting. The impressive exhibits mounted in the hallway, including one of the Morecambe Bay Gas field in north west England, attracted only a handful of curious onlookers, with most of the audience, most of whom were well over retirement age, more interested in the free coffee and biscuits.

Inside the sparsely-filled hall, a woman in black evening dress was repeating the chairman's words in sign language transmitted on six television screens in the auditorium for the hard of hearing. Among the few shareholders who seemed in need of such a service, two spent the meeting fast asleep.

Meanwhile, the facilities which could have beamed the whole board and all the questioners into a neighbouring exhibition hall, which was opened to cope with the expected overspill, went unused.

Instead, Sir Denis gave in to the demands of the Government-appointed regulator for details of its calculations for the fixing of prices



Sir Denis Cooke yesterday: neatly silenced complaints

for domestic consumers, Max Wilkes in an envelope.

The corporation had previously refused to send its workings to the Office of Gas Supply, which is charged with oversight of domestic tariffs. However, just before the an-

Tories prepare for Scottish shake-up

BY JAMES BUXTON, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE SCOTTISH Conservative Party yesterday embarked on a fundamental reform of its organisation. It involves a considerable strengthening of the party's Central Office in Edinburgh and financial autonomy.

The shake-up follows the Scottish party's disastrous performance in the June general election, when the Conservatives lost 11 seats, leaving them with only 10 members of parliament.

This messy outcome with the new leader being opposed by a majority of the MPs indicates the likely depth of the divisions at the party conference.

Mr John MacKay, who was minister responsible for education and agriculture at the Scottish Office until he lost his seat in Argyll and Bute at the general election, is to take the newly-created post of chief executive. The present Scottish director of the party, Mr Bill Henderson, is leaving to take a senior party post in England.

Lord Goold, the chairman of the party, said yesterday that the organisation would cost between 25 and 30 per cent more to run than before, though he did not disclose what the party's annual income was. The staffing of the central office is likely to go up from about 18 to 25.

New leader for SDP will move in without challenge

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

MRI ROBERT MACLENNAN is now certain to become leader of the Social Democratic Party without a challenge, although three of the party's four other MPs announced last night that he would not be speaking for them.

Nominations close at 5pm tomorrow, when Mr MacLennan will formally become leader and will make the leader's speech to the SDP conference starting in Portsmouth on Tuesday.

Mr MacLennan, the MP for Caithness and Sutherland since 1986 and a former junior Labour minister, has switched to favouring negotiations with the Liberals on a merger after the vote in favour by SDP members in this month's ballot.

However, Mr MacLennan received support yesterday from a senior former SDP MP who also supported merger in the ballot, Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, who said he had the

right experience for the negotiations.

After a two-hour meeting of the party's five MPs in a subterranean House of Commons room, Mr John Cartwright, a strong opponent of merger with the Liberals, said he had decided not to let his name go forward for the leadership.

He argued that there was only one leader of the SDP and that the sooner Dr David Owen (the former leader) is restored to his natural position the better for social democracy and for the future of British politics.

Mr Cartwright said that Mr MacLennan had been told that his postulation was not shared by a majority of his parliamentary colleagues.

He did not rule out the possibility that the three anti-merger MPs (also including Mrs Rosie Barnes) might move a vote of no confidence

in Mr MacLennan depending on his stance in the negotiations with the Liberals starting this autumn.

The anti-merger MPs argued that the leadership should remain vacant, but Mr MacLennan said last night that it was now imperative that the post should be filled to protect the party's constitutional integrity and unity, and policies.

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Mountleigh in bid for property portfolio

By Steven Butler

MOUNTLEIGH, the fast-moving UK property group, yesterday said it had exchanged contracts to buy the property portfolio of Pension Fund Property Unit Trust (PFPPUT) for £263.5m in cash, subject to approval by unit trust holders.

Mr Geoffrey Goodwill, Mountleigh director, said the property purchase would not affect Mountleigh's decision on whether to proceed with a bid for Stobhouse, the UK retailing conglomerate.

The deal comes in £28.5m higher than a bid for PFPPUT by Trafalgar that was opposed by the PFPPUT Committee of Management, and eventually rejected by the unit trust holders two weeks ago.

The quick move for the PFPPUT portfolio confirms Mountleigh's emergence as a major player in the property market and would be financed entirely by cash on hand and borrowing.

Mr Goodwill said it would be inappropriate to comment on plans for the properties prior to final approval of the deal.

Although Mountleigh will have the backing of the PFPPUT Committee, it still must obtain support from 50 per cent of the unit trust holders, some of whom favour retention of their property investment through PFPPUT.

The opposed bid from Trafalgar obtained support from 45 per cent of the unit trust holders, although in that case a 75 per cent majority would have been required.

Mr Marler said Mountleigh contacted PFPPUT immediately following rejection of the Trafalgar bid, and that the Mountleigh offer was the highest of about half a dozen other proposals.

PFPPUT has a wide range of shop, office, industrial and agricultural properties in the UK, topped by two valuable office freeholds in the City of London.

Lex. Page 16

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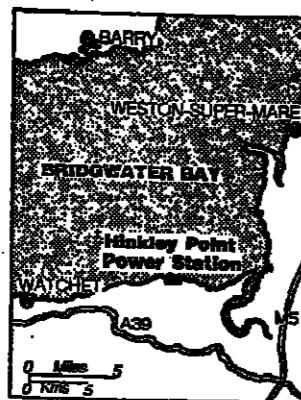


OPENS THE DOOR TO FAST FINANCE

UK NEWS

Hinkley reactor 'would create 10,000 jobs'

RAY WILKINSON, RESOURCES EDITOR



Fund to hand out £54m for development in Ulster

By Our Belfast Correspondent

THE INTERNATIONAL Fund for Ireland, which was set up after the Anglo-Irish Agreement to provide aid for social and economic projects, yesterday announced £25m in development grants to Ulster and border regions of the Irish Republic.

The money involved has been donated by the US, Canada, Germany, France and New Zealand governments.

Mr Charles Brett, chairman of the fund, said £25m would go to investment enterprises, £7.5m to business enterprises, £2.5m to tourism. Ulster development is to receive £5.5m, agriculture and fisheries £2.5m and science and technology £2.5m. The university had the idea of designing an engine using mass-produced diesel turbo-charger components in place of the most expensive parts of a jet engine—the turbine and compressor wheels.

The project began in 1979 and initially achieved thrust of 100 Newtons at a turbine entry temperature of 925 degrees C using propane as fuel.

It has since been enough to persuade Normalair to fund a bigger version, designed to give 550 Newtons thrust, the size the company believed would find a market for use in robot aircraft.

Holset Engineering provided

sulted extensively on environmental impact.

"If they decide to object, it is better for everyone—the local community, the CIEGIB and national energy interests—that a public inquiry is held as soon as possible so that important planning decisions are not delayed," he said.

Friends of the Earth pledged to oppose the Hinkley PWR. Mr Stewart Royle, director of environmental energy campaign, said yesterday: "This application bears all the hallmarks of an institution which is utterly unresponsive to public opinion and totally beyond public control."

Following Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, it is quite clear that the public does not want and will not tolerate any more nuclear power." The application was a gross misuse of the Sizewell inquiry will not need to be re-examined.

Yesterday, Mr Alan Goddard, board director of system planning, said preliminary work for the station had included a detailed environmental audit. Local authorities had been con-

Jet engine may serve as smoke generator

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

AN INEXPENSIVE jet engine, being developed for small, unmanned aircraft, may find a second application as a smoke generator to conceal tanks, the British Association's annual conference in Belfast learnt yesterday.

The US army is testing the engine's ability to camouflage a tank with clouds of smoke or infra-red-absorbing dust. Dr David Att, of the department of mechanical engineering, Queen's University, Belfast, told the engineering section.

The money involved has been donated by the US, Canada, Germany, France and New Zealand governments.

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Holset Engineering provided

compressing compressor and turbine units, assembled as a special turbo charger. The university designed the combustors within a maximum casing diameter of 127 mm, and with a flame tube only 100 mm in diameter.

That demonstration model had to burn kerosene, since propane was unsuitable for the operating conditions required. Holset also cooled a heat exchanger used to transfer heat from the turbine bearings. The device ran for an hour at 10,000 rpm.

In 1985, Garrett Normalair learned that the US Army wanted a gas turbine as a smoke generator for armoured vehicles. It turned to the firm of vapourising oil for a smoke-screen and blowing infra-red absorbing dust clouds.

Successful demonstration of a modified engine led to an order for six more, for field testing. Most of the parts for that batch were made by the university. Dr Att said.

Researchers are developing a new combustion chamber for the smoke-generating version. The engine version is now given a family of small jets using the

same core unit to generate thrusts from 225 to 650 Newtons.

Belfast heat and power proposal

A COMBINED heat and power (CHP) scheme, burning local deposits of lignite, was proposed for Belfast, which provided 47% of the estimated heating market, could be economically viable, Professor Bernard Crossland told the engineering section in his presidential address.

Professor Crossland, Emeritus professor at Queen's University, is an engineering consultant associated with the Belfast CHP scheme.

Profitability of the proposal was marginal at present, he said, and carrying it out would cause Belfast considerable disruption.

"Every road in the high heat density area will have to be dug up," he said. It would be 22 years from the start of construction to full maturity of the scheme.

Analyses suggested that the economic case was probably not strong enough to attract 100 per cent private sector investment, because the risks of not realising a 72 per cent penetration

were too great.

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Customers oppose large water charge increases

BY RICHARD EVANS

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That was the main conclusion of a survey conducted recently by Wessex Water after an extensive publicity campaign on the options facing the authority.

Three main tasks were outlined: the number of beachlets that needed to be brought up to European Community standards; the need to replace or update sewage treatment plants and sewerage systems; and the need to reduce river pollution.

Two options were presented to customers throughout the

region, which covers Avon, Dorset, Somerset, most of Wiltshire and parts of Gloucestershire and Hampshire.

Water charges could either be increased above the rate of inflation to resolve the matters quickly or they could be increased in line with inflation and the goals achieved over a longer period.

More than two to one were against the larger increases, in spite of general dissatisfaction with the cleanliness of rivers and sea waters, the survey said.

Water charges were favoured by 25 per cent, but 60 per cent preferred keeping increases to the level of inflation. Fifteen per cent expressed no opinion.

Manchester law firms to merge

TWO MANCHESTER law firms—Leak Almond and Parkinson, and Cobbets—are to merge on October 1, enabling them to offer a wider range of services.

The merged practice, to be known as Cobbets, Leak Almond, will have 28 partners and more than 100 staff.

Leak Almond is widely involved in commercial property development, while Cobbets has a specialism in the brewing industry and licensed trade.

Mr Anthony Leaden, senior partner, said: "It will be increasingly necessary to have greater resources in terms of specialist legal staff and modern electronic equipment to provide the level of service demanded by commerce and industry."

He forecast that, if Belfast were to undertake the project, "future generations would

wonder at our foresight and initiative, just as many of us wonder at the drive and initiative of our Victorian forefathers."

Enzyme engineering can aid medicine

REDESIGN of natural enzymes, known as "enzyme engineering," was beginning to affect medicine and industry, said Professor David Blow of Imperial College, London, in the first Kathleen Lonsdale lecture to the British Association.

"Every road in the high heat density area will have to be dug up," he said. It would be 22 years from the start of construction to full maturity of the scheme.

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UK NEWS

Open College sets out first year's syllabus

BY CLARE PEARSON

THE OPEN COLLEGE, the ambitious long-distance learning initiative that will use national broadcasting to try to improve vocational training, yesterday announced details of its first year's courses, which will go on the air next month.

It was also announced yesterday that TV-am had agreed to provide weekend air time for the college, in addition to Channel 4's half-hour daytime weekly slots, which will appear from September 21.

Mr Michael Green, chairman, said: "The Open College is undoubtedly the most exciting and progressive training initiative for several decades. It will change the face of skills training in this country."

The college is offering a wide range of courses geared to companies and individuals. It anticipates attracting 50,000 students in its first year and is hoping for up to 15 students over the next five years.

However, the college will face

a considerable task in encouraging thousands of potential students to enrol in the next three weeks.

The college has more than 100 local enrolment centres and students can also enrol through the National Distance Learning Centre. So far, however, it has spent very little money on marketing and advertising. College managers accept that their public profile is not yet established.

The project, for which the Government has provided £35m for start-up finance, is also seen as a key test of industry's commitment to training. Industry sponsorship is expected to play a large part in its financing.

The organisers are hoping that it will become self-financing from a combination of industrial sponsorship and fee income within three years.

The college says its courses are designed to help those needing to update job skills and to help to re-skill the unemployed. It will not provide its

own qualifications but students can obtain credits towards a nationally recognised qualification.

Initially, it is offering 36 courses grouped under headings ranging from Getting Started—which covers basic literacy and numeracy skills—to Industry and Technology, which includes courses in hydraulics, circuit training and design.

Study is done through radio, television and video programmes, audio cassettes and workbooks. Prices range from £10 for a course entitled The Effective Leader, a guide for people studying to £450 for China: the business briefing.

Unlike the Open University—which the college is designed to complement—all course material will be subcontracted and the college will operate with a small commissioning staff of about 40.

Of the expected total of 50 courses in the first year, 20 will have been adapted from existing material.

British Steel expands in W Germany

By Hazel Duffy

BRITISH STEEL is strengthening its presence in West Germany through the purchase of Eilen-Werner, a steel stockholder, which specialises in structural steels finished to individual requirements.

The deal, effective from October 1, takes British Steel into the high-value end of the West German market for pre-finished structural beams for the first time.

The purchase has been made by Walter Blume, the Stuttgart-based steel stockholding subsidiary of British Steel. No price has been put on the transaction.

Eilen-Werner, also based in south Germany, will continue trading under its own name, and Mr Gunter Werner, the former owner, will remain in charge and become a member of the Blume management team.

British Steel described Eilen-Werner as a significant supplier of structural steels throughout southern Germany.

The corporation's policy of expansion into steel stockholding on the Continent dates back to the early 1970s, and more recently its improving finances have led to an acceleration of the programme, with purchases in France, the Netherlands and West Germany over the past year, and in Canada.

NEC to invest £17m in electronics plant

By Lynton McLain

NEC, the Japanese electronics company, is to build an additional factory at Telford's Shropshire site, at a cost of £17m, bringing to £55m the investment planned for its European manufacturing headquarters in the town over five years.

The factory will manufacture electronic 24-pin dot-matrix printers. Ninety jobs will be created initially, but the total figure might be 200 jobs over five years.

Telford Development Corporation said yesterday the company was already building the first of its factories on a 48-acre site. Plans had been announced in January to invest £36m in production facilities for NEC's four main product groups. They are communications equipment, computers, electronic devices and home electronic devices.

Up to 900 people are expected to be employed by the early 1990s, making, in order of importance, video cassette recorders, followed by colour televisions, mobile telephone systems, facsimile machines and radio-pagers.

NEC is to make the dot-matrix printers as replacements for earlier models on the European market, with 90 per cent of production likely to be exported to the Continent. By

1991, turnover from the production and sale of the printers is expected to be £77m.

The company is to start recruiting employees for training and production trials, with full-scale production expected to start by December. Its factories occupied temporarily while the new premises are being built.

NEC's investment is being supported by a regional aid grant from the Trade and Industry Department believed to be worth about £7m.

NEC already has a factory at Livingston, near Edinburgh, making semiconductors, of which it is the world's largest producer. This week it announced that it was to manufacture the latest generation of high-powered semiconductor memory there.

● Samsung, South Korea's biggest manufacturing company, has leased a 50,000 sq ft unit through its Samsung Electronics (UK) subsidiary, in Telford's Stanzor Park enterprise zone.

The unit is to be the company's main national distribution centre outside south-east England and will employ 25 people initially. It will also be the main service centre for Samsung's range of consumer electrical goods, and will be the first investment in Telford by a South Korean company.

Eric Short considers the delay in issuing new-style personal pensions

Retiring to consider a six-month breather

THE LIFE ASSURANCE industry was yesterday assessing the implications of Wednesday's announcement by the Government that the starting date for the new-style personal pensions was being put back six months to July 1 1988.

Reaction tended to be mixed. The established life companies were largely disappointed but the other institutions providing personal pensions were somewhat relieved.

The potential market for selling personal pensions should not change because of the delay, at least in theory.

Employees interested in taking out personal pensions, whether or not they are members of a company pension scheme, will still be able to pay the same amount of contributions into the contract through the backdating arrangements.

In spite of the time delays, where eligible, will still collect the full amount of the incentive payments paid by the Government.

The later start date will mean a loss of interest on the contributions, but that will not detract from the marketing potential of personal pensions.

So why are those companies annoyed about the delay?

In spite of the tight timetable involved in the consultation with our experts and in-depth resources have been able to gear themselves to meet a January deadline.

They were confident that the product would have been avail-

able, the administration systems in place, and the salesmen and intermediaries trained in time.

Those processes had been put into motion and all advanced as to be within the original deadline. A six-month delay, which would have been welcomed a few months ago, now means nothing positive to the companies.

Salesmen were also enthusiastic about selling personal pensions in the months before the end of the tax year. It is a favourable time for marketing such contracts.

Now the head of steam built up to meet the original timetable is likely to be disrupted by the people involved, many less among them enthusiastic.

The summer months are usually dull ones for selling pension contracts. The trend among self-employed people is that they tend to leave everything to the end of the tax year.

The 1986 Social Security Act, which introduced personal pensions, also ended life companies' monopoly in providing pensions. Now banks, building societies and unit trusts can offer personal pensions.

However, those institutions lack the in-built expertise to set up pension contracts quickly, in particular where it is necessary to design a contract and get the necessary approvals from the Inland Revenue and the Occupational Pensions Board.

Now do they have experience of the required administration back-up systems needed to serve the public.

Therefore, many new entrants had resigned themselves to not being in the marketplace next January and were taking their time over entry. The field, at least in the all-important first months, was being left to the established life companies.

The delay will be welcomed,

Gilt market keyed up for second auction

By Janet Bush

THE GOVERNMENT bond market is keying itself up for Tuesday's July balance-of-payments figures, with yields on longer-dated stocks stuck at 10½ per cent and very little sign of retail buying interest.

The market is also beginning to turn its attention to the Bank of England's second experiment of gilt-edged stock.

The prospect of the supply of a tranche of up to £1bn in long-dated gilts has been one of the factors—including continuing uncertainty about trends in the trade balance and bank lending—hanging over the long-dated end of the gilt market.

The market is also beginning to turn its attention to the Bank of England's second experiment of gilt-edged stock.

The story is typical of the poor organisation and often lackadaisical attitude found in some constituencies at the election when the party lost 11 of its 21 Scottish seats. It contrasts with laser-like attacks by the Scottish Labour Party on target seats, when manpower and resources were poured in.

Yesterday the Scottish Conservative Party announced a reorganisation of its central office. Mr John MacKay, a former Scottish Office minister who lost his seat in the election, is to be chief executive of a strengthened organisation.

The party is also to achieve more financial independence from its UK parent and intends to try harder to promulgate policies being implemented by its ministers.

The later date would give the market a breathing space after the trade figures as well as time to digest provisional money supply figures for August, due to be released on Friday September 18.

The prospect of nervousness ahead of the money-supply figures might weigh heavily against holding an auction on September 18. In addition, preliminary study of bankers' returns suggests the year-on-year growth rate of the narrow money supply aggregate, Mo, might have fallen to 4½ per cent in August from 5·3 per cent in July.

Such an encouraging figure might help to prepare market sentiment for an auction to be held the next week.

Scotch whisky exports up 3%

By Lisa Wood

EXPORTS of Scotch whisky for the 12 months to June showed a 3 per cent increase in value to £1bn, according to the Scotch Whisky Association.

Mr Ivan Straker, chairman of the association's public affairs committee, said the overseas earnings marked a record and confirmed the industry's position as Scotland's largest net export earner.

In the first six months of this year exports earned £650m, an increase of 3 per cent over the same period of last year.

Contracts.

These pension contracts are available to the self-employed and to employees not in permanent employment. They are being replaced by personal pensions.

However, the contracts have certain marketing advantages over personal pensions. In particular, the investor can take a much higher proportion of the benefits as tax-free cash.

For the self-employed, the delay means that not only can they take out Retirement Annuity Contracts for the tax year 1987-88, but also for the tax year 1988-89. Many life companies can sell these contracts up to July 1, 1988.

In addition, employees interested in taking out personal pensions are given more time than the minimum contributions can invest the extra contributions in a Retirement Annuity Contract before personal pensions become available.

By that means, the employee does not lose interest on the extra contributions by waiting, and has the larger cash sum. He can always switch to a personal pension later, without loss.

The life companies established in the field were mounting strong resistance to the changes, as a result of the postponement to give the established life companies an interim advantage—in particular the six-month delay in the demise of Retirement Annuity Contracts before going to sell Retirement Annuity Contracts before the end of the year. Now they have six more months of marketing with no competition from outside the life assurance industry.

James Buxton reports on a top-level party shake-up

Where Scots Tories went wrong

By James Buxton

IN THE general election campaign a volunteer called at the Tory Party office of an Edinburgh marginal to help canvass for a couple of hours but was surprised when told it had run out of leaflets so there was nothing he could do. However, the situation was being remedied: the constituency agent was waiting for a bus to party central office in Edinburgh, to collect more leaflets, and would return in an hour.

The story is typical of the poor organisation and often lackadaisical attitude found in some constituencies at the election when the party lost 11 of its 21 Scottish seats. It contrasts with laser-like attacks by the Scottish Labour Party on target seats, when manpower and resources were poured in.

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The single most favoured option, supported by two-thirds of those replying, is to have mandatory ballots for all selections, with constituencies required to ensure every eligible member has the chance to vote.

That is narrowly favoured over retaining the status quo in selections. Here, MPs are selected and candidates are selected by smaller groups on general management com-



John MacKay: an assertive Thatcherite

Sir Alex Fletcher, former MP for Edinburgh Central, who lost his seat, is not alone in saying the business community, much of which did well under Thatcherism, should have openly supported Tory policies. There was no equivalent in Edinburgh of the merchant bankers in London who canvassed on returning home from work.

Lord Goodwin, party chairman, believes the Scots treat the election like a by-election because the Tories would win a landslide and decide to indulge themselves by voting against the party—to give it a shock and perhaps extract political concessions.

Like Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish Secretary, he also says that, partly because of the effects of the oil-price downturn, the economic recovery and the fall in unemployment have barely reached Scotland before the election.

Nevertheless, Mr Rifkind yesterday made clear the Tories are to go on showing themselves to be the most radical force in Scottish politics—with policies including introduction of a strong measure of parental control of state schools, making of local council estates and stimulating entrepreneurship through privatisation of electricity boards.

Mr MacKay is an assertive Thatcherite with an attractive personality who was a mathematics teacher in Oban before becoming an MP. He is generally acknowledged to be a good person to put over those policies convincingly. He is popular in the party and should enthuse more rundown constituency associations.

Mr Allen says: "The Conservatives will be glad they can't carry out their programme to devolve power to local councils, but they cannot expect it to have an immediate effect on their vote. Their vote will not recover because their policies are not seen as relevant to Scotland."

Mr Rifkind and Mr MacKay, however, presumably disagree. The alternative to serving up watered-down Tory policies, that says Conservative's right in Scotland, amounts to the slogan "we will give you the same as Labour, only less of it".

Appeal for coherent TV

APPOINTMENTS

Personnel director of Shell UK

Dr Alan Thorley has been appointed personnel director of SHELL UK since September 1. He will serve as an executive director on the board of Shell International. Mr Brian Bowden, personnel director since 1982 who has retired, Dr Thorley joined Shell Research in 1964. He moved to the Netherlands in 1976 when he was appointed as head of a section of Shell International Chemicals in The Hague. He left in 1979 to become operations supervisor of the Shell Higher Oils products plant at Shell UK Research. In 1983 he was appointed manager of the Carton chemicals plant, leaving there in March 1986, to head the employee relations, policy and support division of Shell International Petroleum in London.

Mr Bernd Murray-Upton has been appointed vice-president of European operations of CAMPBELL CORP. He was director of European operations.

Mr Ken Arvidt, formerly general manager of the 112-bed room Donington Thistle Hotel at East Midlands International Airport, has been appointed THISTLE'S director of operations—new opening. He will be responsible for the development and opening of all future new hotels.

EDMUNDSON ELECTRICAL managing director Mr Frank S. Alfred retires at the end of 1987 and Mr Douglas T. McNair is currently managing director of Edmundson Refrigeration and will join Edmundson Electrical on September 1 as managing director designate, assuming full responsibility on January 1, 1988.

Mr Brian Eaton has joined MIRACLE TECHNOLOGY (UK), Jewish, as managing director. He was chief executive of First

Computer, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Heron International.

corporate finance advisory business named Bridge House in April 1986. This company has been taken over by Saunders Holdings.

WHITECHAPEL WORK-STATIONS has appointed Mr Jeff Dean as sales and marketing director.

PRICE & PIERCE has appointed Mr G. D. Butterworth as chairman and chief executive of Price & Pierce (Woolwich), Price & Pierce Paper Services, and Price & Pierce (Chemicals & Minerals), and to the board of Price & Pierce Secondary Fibres.

CATER ALLEN HOLDINGS has appointed Mr Peter Taylor as a full-time executive director from September 1. He was with Arthur Young, and will fill a newly-created role as commercial director.

Mr Raymond Monks, chairman and managing director of CAMPBELL'S UK, has recently assumed responsibility for Campbell's Frozen Foods Europe. Groke, the frozen vegetable company based in Holland will report to him as will future frozen foods developments.

LEGAL & GENERAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT has appointed Mr Martin Symon as fund manager responsible for UK investments. He joins from the Church Commissioners where he was deputy investments manager.

NISSAN MOTOR MANUFACTURING (UK) has appointed Mr Ron Mcintosh as project director responsible for continuing the new model programme. Mr Mcintosh, who becomes Nissan's fifth British director, joins the company on

CONTRACTS

Satellite order for Marconi

September 1, from Austin Rover where he was director, power train engineering and director, programme management and services.

*
Mr David E. G. Roberts has been appointed a director of RIVER & MERCANTILE TRUST.

*
Mr J. G. Harris and Mr Victor Barnett are joining the board of THE GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES on October 1. Mr Harris formerly a director of Midland Bank and chief executive of its consumer finance company, FOREMAN TRUST GROUP, will become managing director of General Guarantee Corporation and its associated companies, comprising the financial services division of Great Universal Stores. Mr Barnett, who is chairman of GUS Holdings Inc. North America and Burberry USA, will be responsible for developing North American trading interests.

MARCONI SPACE SYSTEMS

Portsmouth has received from Aerospatiale of France an £8m order for a communications repeater for a fourth EUTELSAT communications satellite for the French space agency. It is expected to be launched in 1989 and delivered by the fourth repeater to Aerospatiale in Cannes is scheduled for February 1990 with launch in 1991.

Long-haul items for the fourth were ordered in June 1986 in a contract value at £1m. The company is part of a consortium, with Aerospatiale as prime contractor, which has been chosen by the European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (ETSE) to supply communications satellites for the 28 European member countries.

Each satellite can carry some 16,000 simultaneous telephone conversations, provide high-speed computer datalinks, carry high-quality television pro-

grammes within the Eurovision network, and permit direct broadcasting by satellite, as well as video conferencing facilities. The first three satellites are expected to be launched in 1989 and delivery of the fourth repeater to Aerospatiale in Cannes is scheduled for February 1990 with launch in 1991.

A contract worth over £1m for the supply of commercial vehicle speed control systems to the US and Canada, has been awarded to NATIONAL CARRIERS CONTRACT SERVICES, the NFC's specialist dedicated distribution company. During the five-year contract, NCCS will use 32 trailer units, 30 box trailers

(32 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft) with tail lifts, and 52 stake-drivers and management are dedicated to the contract, which handles some 10,000 loads a year from Curry's two main warehouses at Newark and Winchester.

STARS

Securities Transferred and Repackaged Limited

DM 300,000,000.-

Deutsche Mark Floating Rate Notes due 1996

Stock Index No. 480372 -

In accordance with § 14 of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest has been fixed at 4% p.a. for the interest period from 28th August 1987 to 29th February 1988 (185 days). Interest accrued for this interest period and payable on 29th February 1988 will amount to DM 229.64 per DM 10,000.- principal amount.

August 1987

Interest Determination Bank:

MORGAN GUARANTY GMBH,
Frankfurt am Main

BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

To those who have or may have claims against any of the following:

Chateaugay Corporation	Southern Precision Steel Company	Youngstown Erie Corporation	Vought Helicopter Incorporated
Roman, Inc.	V.H.E. Corporation	YST Erie Corporation	AM General Corporation
LTV Steel Company, Inc.	LTV Steel Tubular Products Company	The LTV Corporation	Armland Corporation
Acco Corporation	KGD Corporation	LTV International Sales Company	Kentron Saudi Arabia, Inc.
Jones & Laughlin Steel Incorporated	LTV Tubular Products Company	Lykes Corporation	National Telephone Systems, Inc.
Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation	LTV Steel Specialty Products Company	Republic International Corporation	Sierra Information Systems Corporation
Jones & Laughlin Biwabik Ore Mining Company	LTV Specialty Steels, Inc.	Kenton International, Inc.	A/K/A Siscor
New J&L Steel Corporation	J&L Specialty Steels, Inc.	Jones & Laughlin Industries, Inc.	Sierra Research International Corporation
Republic Steel Corporation	Midman, Inc.	Energy Resources Management Corporation	SRC International Sales Corporation
Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company	Bardale Coal Company	Great Western Steel Company	Universal Time/Frequency, Inc.
Magdalene Mining Company	Barrel Corporation of West Virginia	Gulf South American Steamship Co., Inc.	Vought International, Inc.
R and L Corporation	Republic Container Company	Lykes Computing Corporation	Vought Overseas, Ltd.
Union Dock Company	BCNR Mining Corporation	Lykes Electronics Corporation	Vought Saudi Arabia, Inc.
Jones & Laughlin Realty Properties, Inc.	Crystalee	Lykes Resources, Inc.	Vought Properties, Inc.
North Versailles Mining Company	Dearborn Leasing Company	The Scarle Mines Corporation	Continental Enisco Company
Nakoma Corporation	Erie Corporation	Briggs and Co.	FC Divestiture Corporation
Nakoma II Corporation	Bethlehem Erie Corporation	Continental-Emsco International, Inc.	Fibercast Company
Endim Corporation	Erie Development Company	KI Inc.	Halcon, Inc.
RSC Energy Corporation	Interlake Erie Corporation	The LTV Corporation (Alabama)	E&H Industrial Supplies, Inc.
The Buckeye Coal Company	Erie Mining Company (LTV Steel Mining Company)	LTV Equipment Corporation	J.K. Industries, Inc.
LTV Steel Flat Rolled and Bar Company	Georgia Tubing Corporation	LTV International Sales Company	Juddcorp, Inc.
Cahuet Barge Terminal, Inc.	Gulf States Steel Corporation	LTV International, Inc.	H&T Explosives Co., Inc.
Central States Operating Company	CKH Corporation	Lykes Financial Corporation (Delaware)	LTV Energy Products Company
General Alloy Casting Corporation	NRE Corporation	Lykes Financial Corporation (Louisiana)	Automated Fluid Systems Division
Hydroccal Transportation Company	North River Energy Company	Ore Finance Company	Continental Supply Company
The Mayville Iron Company	J.W. Storage Company of Ohio	OSR Development Company	Drilling Equipment Division
Nemacolin Supply Company	Republic Storage Systems Company	Stagit Corporation	LTV Tubular Services Company
Transoceanic Terminal Corporation	Jalcite I, Inc.	Transportation Systems, Inc.	Tubular Services Division
The Youngstown Steel Products Company of Michigan	Jalco II, Inc.	Veher Corporation	Technical Plastics Division
The Youngstown Mines Corporation	Jalco Mining Company, Ltd.	Wilson Oil Rig Manufacturing Co.	Continental Enisco Division
The Youngstown Steel Products Company	Jones & Laughlin Environmental Properties, Inc.	LTV Sales Finance Company	Oil States Industries, Inc.
Republic Hibbing Corporation	Jones & Laughlin Mining Company, Ltd.	LSC Leasing, Inc.	Oil States Offshore Marine Division
Agilmet, Inc.	Jones & Laughlin Ore Mining Company	The LTV Corporation (Wyoming)	Republie Supply Company
Central States Precision Steel Company	Lorraine Peller Terminal Company	LTV Education Systems, Inc.	Skagit Division
Ciron Coal Company	LTV Electro-Galvanizing, Inc.	LTV International, N. V.	United Meter Co., Inc.
Economy Fuel and Supply Corporation	LTV Holdings, Inc.	LTV Leasing, Inc.	Wilson Oil Rig Manufacturing Division
Hornam Precision Grinding Company	GK Steel Corporation	LTV Properties, Inc.	Continental Emsco Company
LTV Tubular Products Company	Lykes Leasing Corporation	LTVUS Corp.	The Continental Supply Company
Mahoning Ore and Steel Partnership	Nemacolin Mine Corporation	Lykes Equipment Corporation	Dura-Tech Products Division
Mid-Atlantic Precision Steel Company	Republic Drainage Products Company	Repsted Overseas Finance N. V.	LTV Tubular Services, Inc.
Midwest Precision Steel Company	Republic Technology Corporation	LTV Aerospace and Defense Company	Oil States Rubber Disc, Inc.
Nemacolin Mines Corporation	Preco Steel Corporation	Sierra Research Corporation	Oil States Offshore Marine, Inc.
Republic Fuel and Supply Company	Tuscaloosa Energy Corporation	Vought Corporation	Oil States Rubber Co.

NOTICE OF LAST DAY TO FILE PROOFS OF CLAIMS

TO: ALL PERSONS ASSERTING A CLAIM AGAINST ANY OF THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED ENTITIES:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE,

that the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York ("the Court") has entered an order dated July 30, 1987 (the "Order"), requiring all persons and entities, including, without limitation, individuals, partnerships, corporations, trusts and governmental units, EXCEPT THOSE PERSONS AND ENTITIES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS "A" THROUGH "C" BELOW, who assert a claim (as defined below) against any of the above-captioned debtors (collectively the "Debtors") which arose prior to July 17, 1986 (or in the case of The LTV Corporation (Wyoming) and Continental Emsco Company, which claim arose prior to July 25, 1986 and August 1, 1986, respectively) to file a proof of such claim ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 30, 1987 (the "Bar Date") with The LTV Corporation, by mailing the claim to P.O. Box 24660, Cleveland, Ohio 44101, delivering the proof of claim to The LTV Corporation at 25 West Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115, such proof of claim to be filed when actually received.

As used herein, "Claim" means (a) right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured; or (b) right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach gives rise to a right to payment, whether or not such right to an equitable remedy is reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured, or unsecured.

All persons who, or entities which, fail to file a proof of claim on or before the Bar Date shall be forever barred from voting upon, or receiving distribution under, any plan or plans of reorganization of the Debtors EXCEPT THAT:

A. ANY PERSON WHO, OR ENTITY WHICH, HAS ALREADY FILED A PROOF OF CLAIM AGAINST THE DEBTORS WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT (OR IN CARE OF THE DEBTORS) NEED NOT FILE A DUPLICATE PROOF OF CLAIM.

B. ANY PERSON OR ENTITY (I) WHOSE CLAIM IS NOT LISTED AS "DISPUTED," "CONTINGENT" OR "UNLIQUIDATED" IN THE DEBTORS' SCHEDULES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (AS AMENDED) FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT AND (II) WHO AGREES WITH THE CLASSIFICATION AND AMOUNT SET FORTH THEREIN NEED NOT FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM.

C. THE CLAIMS AND INTERESTS DESCRIBED BELOW ("EXCLUDED CLAIMS") ARE NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER AND THEREFORE ANY PERSON WHO OR ENTITY WHICH HAS AN EXCLUDED CLAIM NEED NOT FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM ON OR BEFORE THE BAR DATE FOR THE EXCLUDED CLAIM ONLY. ALL OTHER CLAIMS MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THE BAR DATE, UNLESS THE EXCEPTIONS OF PARAGRAPHS "A" OR "B" ABOVE APPLY.

1. Participants in and beneficiaries of (i) retire life and health insurance programs need not file a proof of claim in respect to any claim arising solely out of the modification of retire life and health insurance programs of the Debtors and (ii) the below listed pension plans need not file a proof of claim in respect of any claim arising solely out of the termination of the following Pension Plans:

Public Retirement Plan terminated September 30, 1986 (salaried);

Jones & Laughlin Hourly Pension Plan terminated

January 13, 1987 (hourly);

Pension Plan of Republic Steel Corporation Dated and Effective as of March 1, 1950, terminated January 13, 1987 (hourly);

Jones & Laughlin Retirement Plan terminated January 13, 1987 (salaried);

provided, however, that any current or former employees of the Debtors or their successors, heirs or beneficiaries who wish to assert a claim against any of the Debtors that is not based solely upon the termination of any of the above-mentioned Pension Plans (e.g., claims for eligibility or denied claim appeals from the Pension Plans, grievance claims, employee welfare plans, the Federal or State Black Lung Act, workers compensation benefits, personal injury, wrongful death, products liability, etc.) must file a proof of claim on or prior to the Bar Date.

2. Holders of any public debt securities of the Debtors which are traded on any U.S. or foreign securities exchange, with maturity dates after July 16, 1986, need not file a proof of claim arising from their ownership of such securities, provided, however, that any such holder who wishes to assert a claim against any of the Debtors that is not based solely upon such securities must file a proof of claim on or prior to the Bar Date.

3. Any of the Debtors or any affiliate of the Debtors holding a claim against one or more of the other Debtors need not file a proof of claim in respect of such claim.

4. Holders of claims whose claims heretofore have been allowed by Order of this Court, including claims of the Banks under the Amended and Restated Stipulation and Agreement to Provide Postpetition Financing and Resolve Certain Controversies dated as of July 11, 1987.

5. Holders of outstanding shares of common, preferred or special stock of the LTV Corporation or of preferred stock of LTV Steel Company, Inc. need not file a proof of interest allegedly arising from their ownership of such shares, provided, however, that public shareholders of any of the Debtors who wish to assert a claim against any of the Debtors that is not based solely upon ownership of the Debtor's common, preferred or special stock, including but not limited to claims based on (i) redemption rights of preferred shareholders, or (ii) unpaid dividends declared prior to July 17, 1986, or (iii) any other obligation of the Debtors, must file a proof of claim on or prior to the Bar Date.

ALL PERSONS AND ENTITIES OTHER THAN THOSE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS "A," "B" AND "C" ABOVE MUST FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM ON OR BEFORE THE BAR DATE OTHERWISE THEY SHALL BE FOREVER

BARRED FROM VOTING UPON OR RECEIVING DISTRIBUTION UNDER ANY PLAN OR PLANS OF REORGANIZATION IN THESE CASES.

Acts or omissions of the Debtors prior to July 17, 1986 (including but not limited to Debtors' indemnifications and guarantees, alleged environmental liabilities arising from Debtors' operations, services provided by the Debtors and products designed, manufactured or sold by Debtors such as the DJ-5 (Dispatcher Jet) postal delivery vehicle manufactured by the AM General Corporation, oil drilling and production equipment manufactured by LTV Energy Products Company, and oil country tubular goods manufactured by LTV Steel Tubular Products Company and its predecessors) may give rise to claims against the Debtors notwithstanding the fact that such claims may not have matured or become fixed or liquidated prior to such date. Therefore, any creditor having a claim or potential claim against the Debtors, no matter how remote or contingent, must file a proof of claim on or before the Bar Date.

Proofs of claims shall conform substantially to the form approved by the Court, a copy of which is on file at the Office of the Clerk and may also be obtained by telephoning 1-216-622-4660. Proofs of claims must be filed by mailing each such proof of claim so that it is received on or before the Bar Date by:

Mailing Address _____ Delivery Address _____
The LTV Corporation
P.O. Box 4660
25 West Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Copies of the Debtors' Schedules are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk, United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, Foley Square, New York, New York, or at The LTV Corporation, as agent for the Court, at 25 West Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

In the event you have questions concerning the completion, filing or processing of your proof of claim, you may telephone 216-622-4660 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Eastern Time for assistance.

Dated: New York, New York

July 30, 1987

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

BURTON R. LIFLAND
UNITED STATES
BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

LEVIN & WEINTRAUB & CRAMES

225 Broadway

New York, New York 10007

DAVIS POLK & WARDWELL

One Chase Manhattan Plaza

New York, New York 10003



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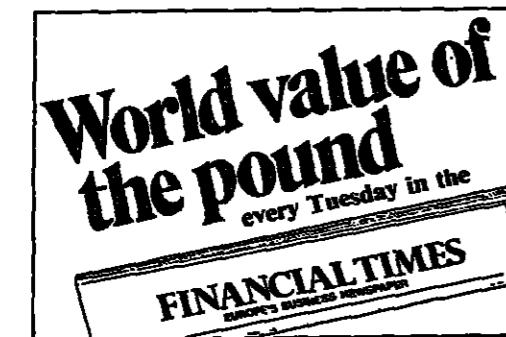
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Arts Week

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28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3

Exhibitions

LONDON

The Tate Gallery. Turner in the new Clore Gallery. The Turner Sequel, which amounts to nearly 300 oil paintings, finished and unfinished, and a further 19,000 or so watercolours and drawings, has been a source of controversy and dissonance ever since it came into the nation's hands more than 10 years ago. Turner has always worked for a gallery to himself who would show all aspects of his work. Whether he would have approved of James Stirling's extension to the Tate as a suitable setting is a nice question. The larger paintings may be hung too low for one who lived in a more low-key age, but the smaller drawings, Stirling has decided for the principal galleries is a far cry from the rich plum he is known to have preferred. The vulgar neo-deco of the entrance hall has little to recommend it. But eight rooms for paintings and one for watercolours give room enough, and with the three reserved galleries upstairs, every painting but the few in restoration or loan is on the wall.

PARIS

The Painter in Front of His Mirror: A collection of 222 self-portraits from the 18th to the 20th century shows the infinite variety of ways in which an artist regards himself. From a painstaking likeness to a self-presentation under the traits of a man or the devil, from a thickly laid brushstroke to a delicate line of lines, painters drew their own image for friends - or for posterity. Louvre des Antiquaires, 2 Place Perral Royal. (23) 72700. Ends Sept. 5.

Invitation to a Voyage: A delightful exhibition based on a Louis Vuitton collection, conjures up the excitement of travel from the mid-18th and 19th century cases for jewels, knives and goblets, with ornate leather trunks - and a Saché Guity wardrobe case. The toilet sets decked with silver and crystal, ivory and tortoise shell, a French Coupe, a Dutch Royal sledge with a Japanese palanquin evoke adventure against the backdrop of exotic travels, while the Pillows are reminders in the luxury of discrete comfort amid the bustling porters. Musee des Arts Decoratifs, 107, Rue de Rivoli. (4360 3214). Ends Aug. 30.

WEST GERMANY

Kassel: Museum Fridericianum Orangeie Documents 8 World exhibition of contemporary arts: paintings

sculptures, theatre performances, architecture and design. The Documenta was founded in 1955 by local painter Arnold Bode with Henry Moore, Alexander Calder, Max Ernst and Joan Miró and is an important venue for modern art. This year director Manfred Schneckenburger presents the works of 150 artists, and for the first time open-air sculptures which will be erected in Kassel's city centre. Artists exhibited include Helmut Newton, Finlay, Jevier Marquez, Helmut Mitterer, Mark Tansey, Alexander Melman, Eric Fischl, Leon Golub, Robert Longo and Joseph Beuys. There is also a separate exhibition 'The Ideal Museum' where 12 architects present their ideas for Museum construction. Ends Sept. 26.

Venice: Palazzo Grassi: Jean Tinguely 1954-1987: The joyful and playful sculptures of Swiss artist Jean Tinguely. A gentle, but still mischievous, version of Salvador Dalí's *Tearantzu*, a giant, but still mischievous, version of Salvador Dalí. Tinguely describes some of his incredible moving sculptures (all built from refuse iron and steel) as "machines a sentiments". and the complexity and sheer improbability of his whole concept. "I am not a 'do-it-yourself'". Over 300 works are on show, lent by American and European museums, with photographs of his first Self-Destructing Sculpture, Homage to New York, which duly self-destructed in the gardens of the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1960. Ends Oct. 18.

VENICE: Alte Napoleonische und Museo Correr: Matisses und Italy: over 250 works by one of most prolific of 20th century French Painters. The exhibition includes portraits, drawings, and Matisse's entire output of sculpture (75 pieces in all), lent by private and public collections in France and America, and the Musée Matisse in Nice. Paris: Schaeffer, the organizer, has attempted to show the works of Italian painters such as Mantegna, Pollaiuolo, Giorgione and Veronese may have influenced Matisse. Until October 18.

Rome: Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna (Viale Della Bella Arte): Le Stanze della Memoria: An international assortment of 35 artists who worked in Berlin over the past 25 years includes David Hockney, Malcolm Morley and Georg Baselitz. Ends Sept. 5.

Museum of Modern Art: Berlin 1961-87: An international assortment of 35 artists who worked in Berlin over the past 25 years includes David Hockney, Malcolm Morley and Georg Baselitz. Ends Sept. 5.

WASHINGTON

National Gallery: A Century of Modern Sculpture: The Patay and Raymond Nasher Collection, contains major works by Rodin, Picasso, Miró, Giacometti, Ernst, Moore and Serra. Ends July 3.

Hirschhorn Museum: One of the Chicago contemporary primitives whose repeated scenes make evocative images has his first major east coast retrospective with 49 paintings and four painted constructions. Ends Oct. 14.

SPAIN

Madrid: Fernando Botero, Colombian painter whose imaginative world is a poetic distortion of reality. 100 works on loan by private collectors, museums and artist's funds. Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Santa Isabel 32. Ends Sept. 6.

NEW YORK

Museum of Modern Art: Berlin 1961-87: An international assortment of 35 artists who worked in Berlin over the past 25 years includes David Hockney, Malcolm Morley and Georg Baselitz. Ends Sept. 5.

CHICAGO

Art Institute: 18th century Turkish art that flourished under "The Lawgiver" Sultan Suleyman is displayed in 210 objects, including illustrated manuscripts, inlaid woodwork, rugs and the imperial wardrobe. Ends Sept. 6.

London

National Gallery: A Century of Modern Sculpture: The Patay and Raymond Nasher Collection, contains major works by Rodin, Picasso, Miró, Giacometti, Ernst, Moore and Serra. Ends July 3.

Paris

London Palladium: Ballet Theatre Français with Rudolf Nureyev dancing each night in a Diaghilev season.

THE ARTS

Theatre

LONDON

Antony and Cleopatra (Olivier): Peter Hall's best production for the National Theatre he leaves in 1988 brings this great but notoriously difficult play to life with Judi Dench and Anthony Hopkins as both the warring leaders on the brink of old age. Death is amoral, and still nihilistically moving. Best of the rest at the NT is Michael Gambon giving his finest ever performance as Arthur Miller's doomed longshoreman in A View from the Bridge; Juliet Stevenson in a fine revival of Lorca's Yerma; and David Hare's production of King Lear. Hopkins, a man who died out, which gathers force and more friends as it continues in the repertoire. (228 2229).

The Phantom of the Opera (Her Majesty's): Spectacular but emotionally flat musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Set in a wretched Paris Opera house designed by Michael Smith. Hal Prince's start,稚拙的 production contains a superb central performance by Michael Crawford. A new, meritorious and palpable hit. (838 2244, CC)

The Balcony (Lyceum): Sadly dated musical, originally opening at the RSC's Garrick, not helping the RSC certainly in London, is stretched way beyond its creative capacities. Terry Hands directs. Parrish's set looks like a cheap pink brothel and the actors, a dull lot, clump around on high boots in big bulging costumes. (228 2200).

Follies (Drury Lane): Stunnning revival, directed by Mike Corden and designed by Maria Björnson, of Sondheim's 1971 musical in which polished marriages nearly undermine an old burlesque revue in a doozy of theatre. Four new songs, improved book by James Goldman. Cast led by Davies Gray, Julia Murney, David Birkin, Daniel Messing. All good. (838 3389).

Les Misérables (Majestic): An immediate celebration of the bayday of Broadway in the '80s incorporates gags from the original film like Smilin' O'Brien with the appropriate singing and dancing, but clearly only in the sense of a mass sold and overblown idea of theatricality. (228 2262).

West Street (Majestic): An immediate celebration of the bayday of Broadway in the '80s incorporates gags from the original film like Smilin' O'Brien with the appropriate singing and dancing, but clearly only in the sense of a mass sold and overblown idea of theatricality. (228 2262).

La Cage aux Folles (Palace): With some fineful Jerry Herman songs, Harvey Fierstein's adaptation of the French film manages, barely, to capture the feel of the sweet and hilarious original between high-kicking and gaudy chorus numbers. (757 2266).

La Net (Hippodrome): The Tony's best play of 1986 won on the strength of its word-of-mouth popularity. (228 2237).

Opera and Ballet

LONDON

London Palladium: Ballet Theatre Français with Rudolf Nureyev dancing each night in a Diaghilev season.

NEW YORK

New York City Opera: A fortnight of Sigmund Romberg's The Desert Song features Richard White and William Parcher as Pierre Hirsham in the company's first performances of the work, which is conducted by Jim Coleman in Robert Johnson's production. Lincoln Center (578 5370).

A Small Family Business (Olivier): Brilliant new Alan Ayckbourn play about Britain on the fiddle in difficult times, selling out to foreigners and keeping it simultaneously in the family. A comedy thriller on the large scale, Ayckbourn's own production is led majestically by Michael Gambon Best of the NT rest

remains King Lear and Antony and Cleopatra in the Olivier, A View from the Bridge in the Cottesloe. The new Brian Friel adaptation of Turpentine's Father and Sons is decent but dull in the Lyceum. (228 2229).

Three Men on a Horse (Vaudeville): George Abbott's sprightly gambling comedy has transferred from the National Geoffrey Hutchings in the lead now joined by Toyah Willcox (838 9987).

WASHINGTON

Satchmo (Opera House): New musical based on the life and music of Louis Armstrong opens Kennedy Center (854 3770).

South Pacific (Robert Goulet stars in the Rogers and Hammerstein musical in the last weekend of Wolf Trap, Vienna, (703 253 1000).

CHICAGO

Sounds in the Park with George Goodman: Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's Pulitzer Prize winning musical with a funny but touching story about the life of artist and Georges Seurat stars John Harrra as the artist and Paula Scrofano as his lover, Dot, directed by Michael Maggio. Ends Aug 18 (443 3800).

TOKYO

Les Misérables: After London and New York, now Tokyo and the Japanese version of the Tony-award winning musical. The cast was handpicked by the creative team of producer Cameron Mackintosh (from an astounding 11,500 hopefuls), then trained for nine months, a special "academy" and rehearsed by director Jon Crook. Costumes, set, sound, lighting have been staged by the respective original designer flown in from London. Toto's Les Misérables is a triumph. The best production of a Western musical in Japan, it differs little from the original London version. Convincing and moving, this top-quality production shows what can be achieved with proper casting and training. Sponsored by the Japanese company Shiseido, Imperial Theatre, near Ginza. (261 7777).

Amuse: The Japanese version of the Tony-award winning musical by Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin. Starr Shiro, Mitsuko as Annie with Ichiro Zatsu, Mitsuo Jun and the shepherd dog Sandy. The Asuka Theatre (Tue, Wed, Thur). (228 1937).

JAPAN

Japan Folklore Art Dance Troupe: Programme consists of traditional dances from the various regions of Japan, including Kyushu, Okinawa and highly skilled presentation. English programme notes. Yusuke Chokin Hall, Shiba Park (Tues). (582 9171).

Continued on Page 11

ACHIEVEMENTS THAT SATISFY THE THIRST FOR PROGRESS.

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TECHNOLOGY

Add strontium to the warm recipe

W. YAO LIANG, of Cambridge University's department of physics, was visiting the General Electric Company (GEC) of the UK last Friday in the hope of netting a research arrangement for his work on superconductivity. Right in the middle of things, his host, Karl A. Gehring, received a telephone call from Tokyo: he learned there had been a conference about new materials with revolutionary implications.

Allegedly, the substance would superconduct - that is, transmit electrical current with almost no loss of power - at room temperature without any of the cooling systems required by previously known materials.

The two men were sceptical. Others had seen fleeting instances of the eagerly sought "room temperature superconductor." But Gehring immediately shared the formula with Liang, and the scientist zipped back to his laboratory to bake up a batch.

"I knew he would go away and try to grow that crystal on his own," says Gehring, who heads GEC's superconductivity programme. "So little is known about these materials, it is quite possible we would succeed and they wouldn't, or they'd come up with a particular technique and succeed and we wouldn't."

At least at this uncommercial stage of development, Gehring feels that "it's important we spread information around."

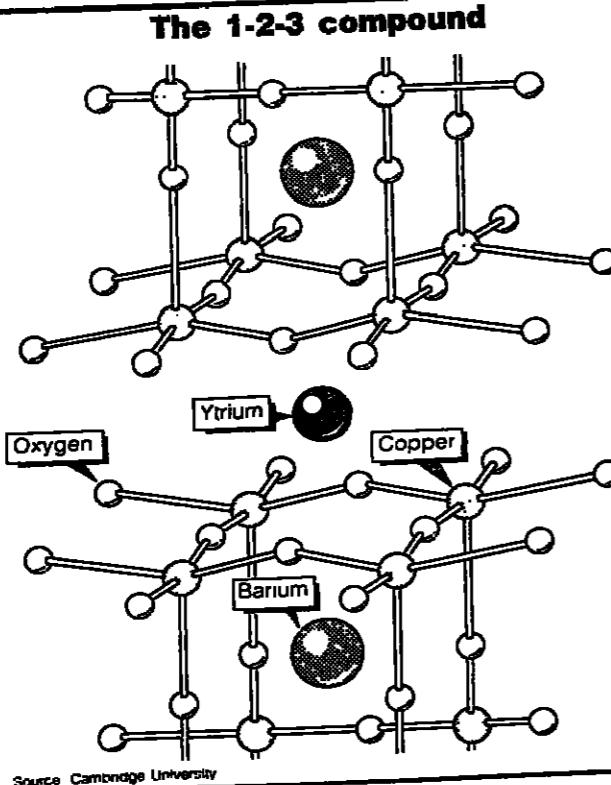
In initial tests still under way, Liang and his team have not been able to confirm the findings of the Japanese company, Electro Technical Laboratory (ETL), which has a recipe for the metallic material that adds a dash of strontium to the proven "warm" superconductors of copper, oxygen, yttrium and barium.

But to Liang, the incident reveals some sort of co-operative attitude that he and colleagues know is invaluable to Cambridge's strategy, as it competes with companies and institutions worldwide to unlock the secrets of superconductor technology. This research holds great promise for a variety of commercial applications, from power generation to low-cost medical scanners, smaller computers and energy storage.

With £2.5m of equipment, an established team linking five departments and a targeted effort to set up industrial collaboration with GEC, Oxford Instruments, IBM and others, Cambridge is at the forefront of superconductor research in the UK.

One of its scientists, Jan E.

Everts, is already anxious to move beyond the sharing phase to protect any possible propri-



Jane Rippeteau reports on the search for a 'room temperature' superconductor

etary edge. He and colleagues have so far filed for six patents, ranging from the basic physics of the materials to designs for superconducting wires that could be used by industry.

Everts says that within days of one filing, a Japanese trading company, that he will not name, contacted him offering research funds in exchange for patent rights. "As soon as they realised I had intellectual property, they came offering money." A few English companies expressed interest, too, but the approach was different: "The English said, 'Can we have lunch?' The Japanese said, 'We want to give you money'."

However, Liang says he found a more positive response from British industry, at least concerning small research grants.

"The situation is so new. Some companies have come around and asked if we wanted money," says Liang. One has provided a two-string-attached kitty of £7,000 to support a post-doctoral student.

And in March, when the UK Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) had overspent and so froze funding,

Liang recalls a spur-of-the-moment decision to call Oxford In-

the main focus of research today because once scientists know why a certain material works, they can begin resolving the technical barriers to commercial application.

One problem is the highly unstable behavior of oxygen in the compounds. "Oxygen goes in and out of them like a sieve," says Eckardt Salje, lecturer in the university's department of earth sciences. As a result, the materials lose their superconducting punch over a matter of months and revert to normal conductors, or worse, to insulators.

According to Liang, this problem is evident with the ETL material, which lost just a day before losing its superconductivity. However, the new recipe gives important clues. "Strontium has a different size from barium," notes Liang. Because of that, the copper atoms are pushed further apart, opening up the lattice framework of the crystal unit and allowing it to hold more oxygen.

"It's a step towards our understanding of the mechanism," he says.

Studies are costly and time-consuming, though Salje has one £200,000 computer-controlled machine running constantly to analyse atomic structure at different temperatures, to try to understand why the oxygen blasts around the unit does. It takes a week just to get one sample, and five or six samples at several temperatures are needed.

Salje is chairman of Cambridge's High Temperature Superconductivity Group, which links his department with other relevant disciplines in chemistry, physics, materials science and metallurgy, and engineering. The group involves about 30 Cambridge staff members and post-doctoral students, and 20 visiting scientists. But of these, fewer than 10 are able to work full-time on superconductor studies, according to Salje.

While some concentrate on ways to control the errant oxygen, others are trying to increase the material's limited ability to transmit high densities of electrical current. What the new materials transmit goes fast, but the amount is at best a tenth of that of conventional superconductors.

Everts and his team are plumb a third major block: the material is presently fabricated out as a fairly fragile and brittle ceramic. The industrial applications envisaged call for either flexible wires that, for instance, could be wound around a core to make a powerful magnet, or thin films adaptable to semiconductor manufacture.

A large glimpse of the problem is given by Everts:

The material in powdered form can be packed into a narrow tube of silver to create a flexible superconducting wire. Since silver does not oxidise, it allows oxygen to pass through it to the material inside which needs it. But the limitation of silver is that it is too soft to hold in the desired applications.

Everts's desire calls for a stainless steel tube with a hole in the centre surrounded by a thin membrane of silver. Superconducting powder is packed between and oxygen allowed in to the tube's centre.

Work on thin films looks set for a boost at Cambridge. As a result of last Friday's meeting, the university and GEC are close to an agreement concerning exclusive use of a £700,000 machine, called a molecular beam epitaxy, or MBE, device.

Although superconducting materials are in use today, they require expensive cooling systems to chill them almost to absolute zero (0 degrees Kelvin, or 273 Celsius). A burst of discoveries this year turned up new compounds working at 93 degrees K, which need only cheap liquid nitrogen to cool them. Attention shone naturally to the revolutionary prospect of room temperature superconductors.

Most of the warm superconductors follow a formula that scientists call the 1-2-3 compound (see illustration). That starts for one atom of yttrium, two of barium and three copper, plus varying amounts of oxygen. Scientists do not yet fully understand how and why this metal oxide works as a superconductor. These questions are

Good news for oyster lovers

BIOCHEMICAL research in the US has provided some mouth-watering news for lovers of oysters. Scientists believe they have hit on a way of ridding the shellfish of an unpleasant disease called bonamia, which has threatened to decimate their numbers in Europe.

The work is being done at a marine science laboratory in Sequim, Washington, run by Battelle, the contract research company. In the studies, paid for by the US Department of Energy, scientists have looked at the way a parasite, known as bonamia ostreae, brings on the disease by invading an oyster's blood cells and destroying its immune system.

A large proportion of the oyster population has been wiped out in France, the Netherlands, Britain, Spain and Ireland.

Battelle's scientists in Washington, where oyster cultivation is a big industry, have analysed how the disease starts and spreads, and are breeding oysters which appear resistant to it.

Ultimately, they hope to incorporate genetic material from the resistant shellfish in the tissue of the European variety. Scientists think it may be possible to build up large stocks of oysters which are unlikely to catch the disease and which can thrive all the way to the dinner table.

A shot in the dark

A SMALL laser device promises to make life easier for both soldiers and TV crews. The system, made by Imatronic, a British company, clips on to a gun or a TV camera, enabling a precise aiming in the dark.

The 2300 device emits a narrow beam with a range of up to 500yd. This results in a small red spot on the target.

According to Imatronic, the product is of a size previously considered unattainable - it is about 7in long and 1in wide. The company says it expects the system to see widespread use in the forces.

Design for safety

WANT to be a cut above the rest when using a chainsaw? Stihl, of West Germany, has come out with a range of clothes which it says should be standard gear for safety-conscious farmers and woodmen

wielding such equipment.

The clothes, a matching set of jacket, trousers and leggings, are stitched together from 10 layers of loose polyester fibres, sandwiched between an outer waterproof covering and a cotton lining. If the clothing becomes caught in the saw, the fibres act like a brake, stopping the machinery in a fraction of a second.

Stihl has moved into clothing for chainsaw operators as a sideline to tanning out the machine.

The good news is
FERRANTI
Selling technology

its own in the 1990s, first for use in computer equipment and then in domestic television.

Help in the book hunt

MANCHESTER University, in the UK, is automating the records in its library of 3m books and journals. The computer system, to be installed by Cromtek, will be especially helpful in keeping track of the university's collection of ancient books and manuscripts.

The system, which will be based on an Amstrad computer, will link 1,000 terminals to which some 30,000 people can gain access around the university. By logging on to the system, researchers, staff and undergraduates will be able to quickly locate the books of their choice.

The switch that defies water

PLASTICS technology has come to the aid of the specialist part of the offshore industry which uses underwater mechanisms to inspect pipelines.

Hydrovision, of Aberdeen in the UK, is using a switching unit made from advanced plastic to control an unmanned submarine. The switch is designed to operate while soaked in water.

Made by John McGavigan, of Glasgow, it is used to control a remotely operated vehicle that swims into position. Instructions are fed along a cable linking the vehicle to a mother vessel or the shore.

McGavigan says that the plastic switch contains a sealed membrane which allows it to be used on an open deck, where the system is in constant danger of becoming waterlogged by rain or sea spray.

CONTACT: Benthic UK, 01 493 0184; Imatronic UK, 0734 771233; Stihl UK, 0483 20222; ICL London, 788 7272; Lofja UK, 0332 455000; John McGavigan 041 776 5261

PETER MARSH



largest bank in the country for financing private property.

These two semi-governmental institutions have now joined forces and entered the market as the independent and commercial Postbank.

And the future aim of the Postbank? To intensify its relationship with the business world both at home and abroad.

At home that relationship already exists in the field of high-tech payment facilities with 80% of all Dutch businesses.

And abroad? Well, there is room for improvement there. Which is why we are introducing ourselves here.

Because although we may serve half of Holland, we're not planning to do international business by half.

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Imagine what would happen to Holland without the clients of the Postbank.

مكتبة الأزهر

THE PROPERTY MARKET By Paul Cheeseright

When it comes to development Glasgow is miles better

DCL THE private Glasgow property company 99 per cent owned by Mr Allan Campbell Fraser, has the problem of reconciling ambition to capital. It needs cash. Not because there is any question of going broke. Rather it is a matter of making financial choices about the next moves for the company.

The situation is this: DCL has completed the Westergate office building in Glasgow, and has safely let it to British Telecom to provide a rent roll of £1m a year. The block has a capital value of around £20m. DCL's next office venture, Northgate, is coming through in two phases. The first is nearly complete and partially let. The second is a planned tower block of around 160,000 sq ft with a development cost of £10m.

The question is how to use the finished developments - Westergate and Northgate - to pay for the tower, as well as a possible diversification of the company south of the border. Mr Campbell Fraser is looking at the choices.

He is not enthusiastic about a market listing even though he acknowledges that the banks and institutions like it. "Why bother with listing if we can't make development without it?"

On the basis that Westergate is £20m a fairly large sale for a single institution to swallow in Glasgow, he is more interested in securitisation. This could take place in two ways, either of which would allow DCL to realise part of its initial investment.

PROPERTY people complain about the way in which financial institutions tend to favour London and the South East when they make their investments.

And it is certainly true that over a seven year period in Scotland, the insurance companies, pension funds and property unit trusts have allowed property investment to decline as a proportion of the capital value of their portfolios.

Between 1980 and 1986 institutional holdings of office

property north of the border dropped from 5.1 to 4.9 per cent of the total. Retail fell from 8.8 to 8.3 per cent and industrial from 4.5 to 2.7 per cent.

But the scope for selling on developments is widening as new forms of property investment become available. This is what is influencing the thinking of DCL in Glasgow. It could also be important for the consortium developing The Forge shopping centre in Glasgow - which is due to be completed next year.

Westergate could be spun off into a separate company with a few institutional shareholders and DCL keeping a stake. Or it could be formed into a single property ownership trust - for which stock market listing regulations are still being worked out.

It would suit DCL to hold Westergate until after the first rent review in just over three years' time, when the rent roll will probably double. But if Westergate is held, then DCL would probably have to search for longer-term mortgage funding. Underlying this is the belief that tenants will come forward if the standards of accommodation offered are high enough.

DCL's assets are increasing and the rental income is growing. But the trading problems have to be resolved. It is urgent but I think it would be good housekeeping - otherwise you're overstretching," says Mr Campbell Fraser, "but you've got to watch your dirt near the balance sheet to bit."

Realisation of the Westergate investment, or at least part of it, would permit DCL to use internal funding for the Northgate tower. Without this, "development potential is limited unless we bring in partners," notes Mr

Campbell Fraser with a glance over his shoulder at the 1974 property crash.

Although he concedes that "50 to 70 per cent of something is better than 100 per cent of nothing," he sees problems in joint ventures. The chief of these is the question of "matching partners with development criteria." The point here is that DCL wants to be involved in something at the technological forefront and therefore often costs a third or a half more than conventional developments.

Underlying this is the belief that tenants will come forward if the standards of accommodation offered are high enough.

Arlington looks after the bank funds for the consortium. At the moment their biggest commitment is meeting the costs of the £16m Balfour Beatty construction contract. This in turn is supervised by Project Management International, the project managers on the site who report directly to Arlington.

Project Manager David Lamond of PMI, Balfour Beatty agrees with Gordon Harris, the quantity surveyors, on the value of the work that has been done.

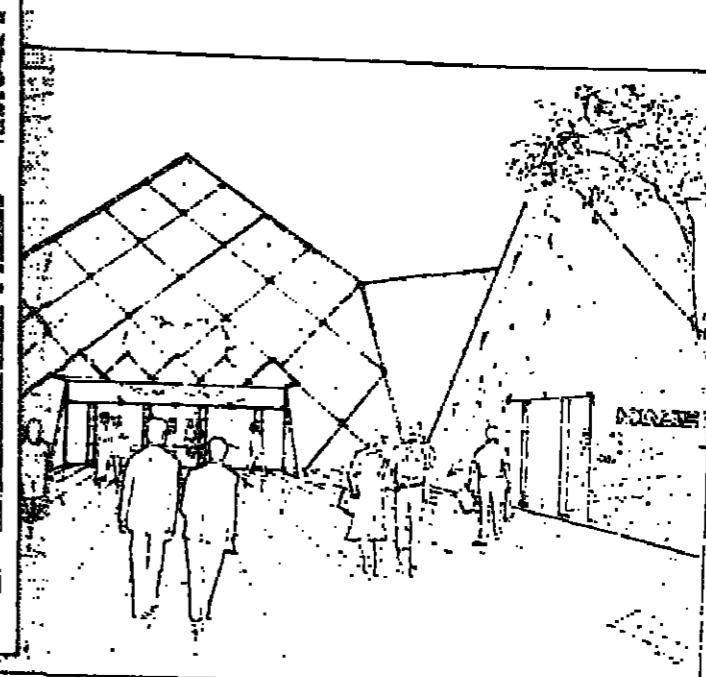
THE FIRST syndicated bank loan for a major property development in Scotland is being spent on construction at The Forge shopping centre in Parkhead, eastern Glasgow, at a rate of around £1m a month.

By the time the centre opens in October 1988, the £25m limited recourse facility provided by County Natwest, Security Pacific and Privatbanken will probably be eaten up.

The duration of the loan formally covers the development and letting period for The Forge. After that, the developers - Arlington Securities, Bedford Properties and their partners, the Developers (Parkhead) - will decide whether to retain the property for investment, re-finance it, or sell it.

The 500,000 sq ft Forge is a risk, the biggest private sector development in a depressed part of the city, although it is made less so by the independent development of a Gateway supermarket as part of the company.

Realisation of the Westergate



The Forge Shopping Centre in Parkhead, eastern Glasgow: model of the main court, left, and drawing of the western entrance.

This assessment goes to Scott, Brownrigg and Turner, the architects. About 3 per cent of the valuation is held back.

Once PMI gives an authorisation that the work has been done to its satisfaction, a report goes to Arlington, which then arranges for the banks to release the funds. Each month, too, PMI formally reports to Arlington on the way the costs are running, so that these can be set against the level of projected payments. At the moment construction is running on budget.

However, payments will accelerate as the project nears completion and as changes are

made to building plans because of tenant demands, the upgrading of, say, the electrical or mechanical systems, or just because of the unexpected.

changes of mind while the construction work is going on. And there will be further contingency sub-funds related to specific specialist contracts.

revenue, thereby holding down the interest charges.

To some extent therefore, there is a difference of interest between, in this case, Arlington and Balfour Beatty. Arlington wants to hold down payments while Balfour Beatty wants to create an immediate cashflow. There is also the question of who takes responsibility for the unexpected. When development started at The Forge, it was not clear what would be found underground on what was an old steel mill site. Arlington negotiated with Balfour Beatty so that the latter took on the costs and responsibility for dealing with whatever was found.

The Forge is a risk, the biggest private sector development in a depressed part of the city.

Most developers - and Arlington is no exception - keep a contingency fund of around 5 per cent of the total cost of a project to cover cost escalation and

The key is to minimise the risk and make certain that the biggest disbursements of funds take place close to the time when the project starts to earn

Contracts and Tenders



National and Foreign Public Auction For The Sale Of 151.000.000 Shares Of Compañía de Teléfonos de Chile S.A.

Corporación de Fomento de la Producción, in agreement with the authorisations conferred by D.L. N° 1056, invites investors to present purchasing offers for 151.000.000 shares of Compañía de Teléfonos de Chile S.A., equivalent to 30% of the authorized share capital.

Special Clause: The grantee shall be obligated to concurred to a later capital increase, for the approximately 387.000.000 shares, equivalent, by reference, to near US\$ 264.000.000 and from which he will subscribe the necessary shares to reach a 43% participation in the company.

Bases and Backgrounds: They are available for the interested investors since August 19, at Moneda N° 921 Of. N° 221, with the previous payment of \$20,000.

Presentation and Offers Opening: The offerors will be pre-qualified, for which they must be present in the Offices of the Gerencia de Normalización, the backgrounds the bases indicate up to September 30. In the case they are pre-qualified could make offers on November 16, 1987 at Moneda N° 921 Of. N° 825 at 11:00 am. They will be opened with the presence of the General Secretary of the Corporation, who will act as Faith Minister.

The Corporation reserves the right whether to accept the offer which at his judgement is more convenient or to reject all of them without expression of cause.

Company Notices

British Coal Corporation (formerly National Coal Board)

U.S.\$50,000,000

83 1/2% Guaranteed Bonds 1988

NOTICE OF EARLY REDEMPTION

On behalf of the Issuer, S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. hereby gives notice to holders of the above-mentioned Bonds of the Issuer's election to redeem all outstanding Bonds on 15th October, 1987 at par, in accordance with Condition (c) of the Bonds.

Consequently on 15th October, 1987 there will become due and payable upon each outstanding Bond the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to date, at the office of the Principal Paying Agent.

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
Paying Agency, 6th Floor,
1 Finsbury Avenue,
London EC2M 2PA

or at the office of one of the other paying agents named on the Bonds. Interest will cease to accrue on all outstanding Bonds on 15th October, 1987.

Bonds should be presented for redemption or payment together with all unmatured Coupons, failing which the amount of the missing unmatured Coupons will be deducted from the sum due for payment. Any amount of principal so deducted will be paid in the manner mentioned above against surrender of the relative missing Coupons. Bonds not presented for payment will become valid unless presented for payment within a period of 12 years and five years respectively from 15th October, 1987.

28th August, 1987

ANGLO AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION LIMITED (Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa) Company Registration No. 624028206

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that divided No. 12 in respect of the above mentioned preference shares for the half-year ending September 30, 1987 has been declared payable to the holders thereof registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on Friday, September 11, 1987.

Dividends per share Date of record Days between dividend and payment date Currency conversion rate Payment date
5.625 12.97 14.97 23.10.87 1.11.87
26.9.87

The dividend is payable subject to conditions that can be inspected at the head and London offices of the company and also at the offices of the auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, 12th Floor, 100 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ. Registered shareholders may receive the United Kingdom conversion notice of the nominal value of their United Kingdom shares (less appropriate taxes), but may elect to be paid in South African currency, provided, however, that any such request is received at the offices of the corporation's United Kingdom transfer solicitors on or before Friday, September 11, 1987.

The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax is 15 per cent.

By order of the Board
ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED
D. J. ALISON
Dividend Secretary
Registered Office
44 Market Street
Johannesburg 2000
South Africa

London Office
40 Holborn Viaduct
London EC1N 7AJ

28th August, 1987

European Coal and Steel Community

6 1/2% 20-Year Bonds of 1967 due October 1, 1987

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Paying Agency Agreement dated as of October 1, 1987 by and between the European Coal and Steel Community and The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as American Paying Agent, and the European Paying Agents, the remaining \$1,100,000 principal amount of the above Bonds will be paid on October 1, 1987 at the principal amount thereof together with interest accrued to the maturity date.

Interest on the above Bonds shall cease to accrue on the maturity date and on that date the maturity price will become due and payable on the remaining Bonds.

Payment of coupon Bonds will be made upon presentation and surrender thereof at The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., Corporate Sinking Fund Operations, Box 2020, 1 New York Plaza, 14th Floor, New York, New York 10031 or, at the option of the holder, at Banca Commerciale Italiana S.p.A., Sede di Milano, 6 Piazza della Scala, Milan, Italy; S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., Paying Agents, 6th Floor, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA; Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A., 2 Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg; Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; Generale Bank, S.A., Montagne du Parc 38, Brussels, Belgium; or Société Générale, 29 Boulevard Haussmann, 75009 Paris, France, the European Paying Agents.

Coupons which mature on, or have matured prior to, the maturity date should be detached and surrendered for payment in the usual manner.

Payment of registered Bonds will be made only upon presentation and surrender thereof at the above mentioned address of The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. Interest on the registered Bonds will be paid in the usual manner.

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY
BY: THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION)
American Paying Agent

Dated: August 26, 1987

ESCOM Electricity Supply Commission

ECU 50,000,000

Floating Rate Notes due 1990

In accordance with terms and conditions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the Interest Period from August 26, 1987 to November 30, 1987 the Notes will carry an Interest Rate of 7 1/2% per annum.

The interest payable on the relevant Interest Payment Date, November 30, 1987 against coupon Note #10 will be ECU 19.91 against Note #10.

The Agent Bank

KREDIETBANK
N.V. LUXEMBURG-REFUSIE

CLAL FINANCE N.V. US\$20,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes 1994

The interest rate applicable to the above Notes in respect of the period commencing August 26, 1987 will be 8% per annum.

The interest commences on US\$411.11 per \$1,000 principal amount and US\$411.11 per \$10,000 principal amount of the notes will be paid on 28th August, 1987 against presentation of Coupon No. 2.

BANK LEUMI (UK) Plc
Principal Paying Agent

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM BONDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the BOND REGISTER will close on 28th September 1987 for the purpose of receiving applications for subscription of bonds on 1st October 1987.

For further information, see advertisement in the Birmingham Post.

28th August, 1987

City Treasurer

Legal Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF MACBAR MARINE LIMITED (IN RECEIVERSHIP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 46(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at the Forestside Suite, West Cliff Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 5EU at 11.00 hours on Tuesday 15 September 1987 for the purpose of having told before it a copy of the report prepared by the administrative receivers under Section 46 of the said Act and, if thought fit, a copy of the accounts of the company.

Creditors are entitled to vote if:

(a) they have delivered to us at the address shown below, no later than 12.00 hours on Monday 14 September 1987, written details of the debts they claim to be due to them from the company, and those debts have been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986; and

(b) they have been lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

Signed: J. M. IREDALE and R. M. ADDY

Administrative Receivers

Creditors may obtain a copy of the report, free of charge, on application to the Administrative Receivers at the address shown above.

28 August 1987

Date:

J. M. IREDALE and R. M. ADDY

Administrative Receivers

Creditors may obtain a copy of the report, free of charge, on application to the Administrative Receivers at the address shown above.

Signed: J. M. IREDALE and R. M. ADDY

Date:

J. M. IREDALE and R. M. ADDY

Administrative Receivers

Creditors may obtain

FINANCIAL TIMES

BRACKEN HOUSE, CANNON STREET, LONDON EC4P 4BY
Telex: Finantime, London PS4. Telex: 8854871
Telephone: 01-2488000

Friday August 28 1987

Clearer path to a summit

THE OFFER by Mr Kohl, the West German Chancellor, ultimately to scrap Bonn's ageing Pershing 1A missiles has removed the single biggest remaining obstacle to an agreement between the US and the Soviet Union on a worldwide elimination of intermediate range nuclear forces. Barring last-minute hitches—always a possibility given the sensitive nature of arms control negotiations and the whole superpower relationship—President Reagan's optimism that a deal can be reached promptly appears to be justified.

The fundamental reasons for such optimism have long been evident, and have as much to do with Soviet and American domestic politics as with a desire to rid the world of nuclear weapons. His report seriously damaged the Iran/Contra affair. President Reagan is anxious to bow out from the White House with a resounding foreign policy success to his credit. Mr Gorbachev, too, is badly in need of a concrete achievement on the world stage to add substance to his propaganda victories. He has made no secret of his belief that his planned economic reforms are heavily dependent on reducing expenditure on armaments.

Given these considerations, it was inevitable that Mr Kohl and his conservative supporters in the Bonn government could hold out for very long against the combined forces of Washington and Moscow, backed by the Chancellor's own coalition partners. Once the US and the Soviet Union had agreed on the so-called "global double zero option" providing for the abolition of all nuclear missiles with a range of 500 km and 5,000 km, Bonn's insistence on retaining its own 72 PLAs, with a range of 200 km became virtually untenable. This was particularly true given the fact that their nuclear warheads remained under US control.

Symbolic reminder

The Nato argument that the missiles in question could not be included in a bilateral US-Soviet agreement because they were "third country" systems always appeared an over-optimistic interpretation of a problem which was one of politics and strategy. Having been dragged kicking and screaming into approving the "double zero option," which they and other European mem-

bers of Nato feared might lead to the weakening of the US nuclear shield over Europe, the Germans felt particularly vulnerable to the Warsaw Pact's superiority in conventional forces.

The PLA, however, out-dated, they might be at least a symbolic reminder to Moscow that West Germany continued to have a medium-range nuclear capability in the event of a Warsaw Pact attack. Though unconvinced of the PLA's military value, Washington and other Nato allies were unwilling to alienate Bonn any more than they had done already. Mr Kohl's conversion to arms control orthodoxy has been achieved only progressively through discreet behind-the-scenes pressure and the exigencies of his own domestic political situation.

Strategic gap

Even now, the principle that third country systems cannot be included in US-Soviet agreements has been respected by Mr Kohl's proposed formula. The Pershing 1As would only be scrapped once the US and Soviet Union had fully implemented their treaty on the abolition of medium-range missiles.

Though the path to an INF agreement and, possibly, a German-Gorbachev summit, now appears to have been cleared, the issues raised by the German missiles affair have not been solved by any means. Not only Bonn, but Paris and London, have been made acutely aware of the strategic gap in Europe's defences, which will be left by the abolition of ground-launched Cruise and Pershings. That feeling has been reinforced by the absence of any really significant progress in other disarmament negotiations on strategic nuclear weapons and conventional forces.

The optimistic view is that the improved atmosphere resulting from an INF agreement will facilitate progress in other areas of arms control, but that cannot be taken for granted. Long before other and even more important issues are settled, the US, the Western alliance, and its European members, in particular, will have to decide how it can adapt its defence strategy to the new situation. Ironically, the departure of Cruise and Pershings may cause as many problems as their controversial arrival.

Not quite a third force

BRITAIN'S party conference season—the first since the Conservatives won their third successive victory in a general election—opens with the Social Democrats in Portsmouth this weekend. But in a sense the SDP conference has already taken place: the majority of the party membership has voted for a merger with the Liberals and it is unlikely that the decision will be reversed.

We have argued before that the ballot on the merger was premature. It came too soon after a general election in which the Alliance did not do as well as it had hoped, but polled around 23 per cent of the vote, while the Labour Party claimed just over 30 per cent—a depressing performance for the country's official opposition, supposed to have been given a new look under the leadership of Mr Neil Kinnock. A pause for analysis would have been the wiser course.

Still, the ballot was held and it is becoming increasingly futile to argue with the result. An SDP rump may remain, and Dr David Owen will have a telling spokesman. But the broader reality is that if there is to be a third force in British politics, it is more likely to be the new party than the Owenites. Since even the term "third force" is subject to question under the British electoral system, the room for a fourth must be strictly limited.

Lib-Lab pact

The Liberals alone were a third force for many years, yet although they often had influence, they very rarely had power. Their successes came in by-elections and occasionally in opinion polls. The closest they came to having a say in policy-making was the offer of a coalition from Mr Edward Heath after the general election of February 1974 and the Lib-Lab pact when the Labour Government lacked an overall majority later in the decade.

The formation of the Social Democratic Party and subsequently of the Alliance was meant to change all that. It should be remembered that the Alliance did not set out to be a third force or simply the Liberals writ larger. The aim was to be the second and even

For nearly three years Swedish Customs officers have investigated the suspected smuggling of arms and explosives. They have also shed light on the commercial links between European military explosives producers to fix prices and share orders

'Leave Greece to the others'

THIS SWEDISH Customs investigation into smuggling by the Nobel Industries Group and its subsidiary, Bofors, which has uncovered startling evidence of far-reaching cartel activities in the European military explosives industry, began modestly enough with an inquiry from the West German Customs in October 1984.

German suspicions were aroused, when on two occasions railway wagons from Bofors, ostensibly bound for Austria, actually spent only 1-2 days parked on the Austrian side of the border near Passau. They were loaded with 80,000 kg of TNT explosive, destined for detonating and priming compositions as a base charge in anti-aircraft shells and mixed with TNT in mines, bombs and torpedoes.

Following the brief halt at the Austrian border, the wagons went to a small port near Hamburg and the explosives were loaded on to ships bound for Syria—an end-user country forbidden under the terms of Sweden's sweeping arms export regulations.

After two and a half years of painstaking investigations—including 200 raids on the offices of Bofors Nobelkruit, the company's explosives division, and the offices of Scandinavian Community, an arm's dealer in southern Sweden—the customs investigators uncovered a tangled trail of suspected explosives smuggling, most often with Iran as final buyer.

The investigation culminated at the end of May with the indictment for gross smuggling of Mr Mats Lundberg, former marketing director of Nobel Kruft, which includes the Nobelkruit explosives division. Also indicted was Mr Karl-Erik Schmidt, owner of Scandinavian Community, who has admitted being intimately involved in supplying arms and explosives to Iran.

The Bofors papers seized by Swedish Customs have disclosed much more than the suspected smuggling, however. They reveal intimate commercial links forged by the Swedish explosives producer with its ostensible competitors

in Western Europe. Key sections of the 8,000-page investigation were passed to the Swedish competition authorities, NO (Näringsförbundet), earlier this summer and triggered an immediate cartel probe into Bofors.

NO's initial report, contained in an internal memorandum, says that the Customs inquiry indicated that Nobelkruit, represented by its sister company Bofors, was "a member of three international explosives cartels." The cartels are described by Bofors as "clubs," says the NO memorandum.

It says "the suppliers which are members in one or more of the clubs are: Nobelkruit (Bofors), Société Nationale des Poudres et Explosifs (SNPE), a state-owned French company, Dyno Industrier of Norway, Dynamite, an Italian explosives company based in Udine, Nobel Explosives NEC, a unit of ICI, PRC, the fully owned defence subsidiary of Gechem, Bel-

Notes from a 1982 meeting of the PETN club in Geneva: Representatives of four companies are discussing prices offered in different markets. This is the type of evidence assembled by Stig Age (right), the Swedish public prosecutor responsible for the Bofors explosives smuggling case

involving in any activity of this kind."

Last year ICI was one of a group of international chemicals companies that were fined a total of £35m by the European Commission for running a price-fixing cartel in polypropylene.

The NO report then quotes directly from Mr Lundberg's testimony: "In addition it happens that outside the official proceedings there is a group that meets for commercial interest. Then, of course, it is unavoidable that we swap business chats between us."

The NO memorandum says an examination of the Bofors reports shows evidence of a series of consultations and decisions which indicate that the clubs worked like cartels. "The suppliers involved take joint decisions on price-fixing and market-sharing." The seized Bofors papers, the NO memorandum says, show the members dividing up orders received by club members.

Several of the named com-

panies declined to comment on the allegations. Mr Hans Björneborg, chief executive of Dyno, said his company had been called to a meeting with the Norwegian competition authorities, but added: "Dyno is not a member of any pencil (PETN) club. I am not aware that there is such a club."

A spokesman for PRB denied knowledge of a cartel arrangement on fixing prices or fixing market sectors, while Mr René Pahud, manager of SSE, said there were regular contacts between producers within organisations such as CEPIC, the Brussels-based Council of European Chemical Associations.

The companies met unofficially to discuss "certain problems," he said, and there was an exchange of technical information, but he declined to make any comment on the mention of SSE in the Stockholm statements.

ICI's chief press officer, Mr Derek Dewey-Leader, said: "We cannot comment on these documents which we have not seen. All we can do is reinforce ICI's position on such matters, which has been made clear to company employees on several occasions. That policy is that they should not be in-

certain markets. The seized Bofors report includes:

"Future: Bofors: We want East Europe, incl Yugoslavia. We want Romania which is covered by Romania and Yugoslavia. We reported that the Romanian price is a bit over US\$10. Bofors sold smaller quantities at SKr 85 and SKr 105."

The NO memorandum says that at each meeting a rundown is given on each member company's situation regarding, for example, capacity utilisation, order books, future plans and need for orders.

From the Bofors papers there are two illustrations that NECC, the ICI subsidiary, was being forced out with draw from the cartels on the direct order of Sir John Harvey-Jones, former ICI chairman.

The Bofors report on a club meeting from February 10, 1984 says: "On instruction of NECC and for ICI, Sir John Harvey-Jones, ICI's chairman, was not allowed to take part in the meeting that has just been held. If they are caught they will get the sack."

The Swiss producer is said to be moving to France, East Europe and Scandinavia, but in Peru, Greece, Portugal, Mexico and Algeria.

Another report deals with a meeting in Copenhagen on

SNPE sold 5 tons 85/5 to Egypt for FF 85 (DM 27.50). Market in Egypt is estimated to be 400 tons of which is covered by Romania and Yugoslavia. We reported that the Romanian price is a bit over US\$10. Bofors sold smaller quantities at SKr 85 and SKr 105."

The NO memorandum says that at each meeting a rundown is given on each member company's situation regarding, for example, capacity utilisation, order books, future plans and need for orders.

The Bofors report concludes:

"Decisions: East Europe for Bofors. SNPE leaves Italy and Greece and leaves Cameko in Portugal. Guy wants Camelo. If he gets it he can give it partly to us others. Leaves East Europe, Morocco and Algeria. Bofors only scans Scandinavia and East Europe and part of Italy. Glazzi refrains from all exports."

The Swiss producer is said to be moving to France, East Europe and Scandinavia, but in Peru, Greece, Portugal, Mexico and Algeria.

"Companies don't tend to be so stupid as to write it all down"

"It is often maintained that there are international cartels in different sectors, but normally there are no papers to prove it. We have never seen such clear proof before, companies don't tend to be so stupid that they write it all down."

October 11, 1984 at which export prices are decided for certain products within and outside Europe. The Bofors paper says:

"Export prices maintained, ie SwFr 7.25, Europe, SwFr 6.65 outside Europe. Market sharing arrangements maintained without alteration."

At a meeting of the EASSP club in Oslo on October 6, 1983 decisions are taken on target prices for certain products. The Bofors paper includes the following paragraphs:

"Prices: Comp B: Dyno sold 16 tons to FFV for DM 15.75 exworks. We reported 60 tons for DM 15.75 (did not mention Italy). DM 16 is kept as target price."

"RDX: Target price DM 29."

Additional research by Will Dawkins in Brussels, John Wicks in Zurich, George Graham in Paris and John Wicks in Rome.

HAMPSON INDUSTRIES PLC

Engineering and Manufacturing: Industrial Cleaning, Maintenance and Allied Services

FOURTH YEAR IN SUCCESSION OF RECORD PROFITS

Capitalisation Issue of one for five proposed.

Results to 31st March	1987	1986
Turnover	£31.5M	£24.6M
Profit before taxation	£2.82M	£1.72M
Dividend per share	1.375p	1.132p
Earnings per share	6.01p	3.77p
	+28%	+64%
	+21%	+60%

Extract from the Chairman's Statement:

I think I can promise that this increased rate of dividend will be maintained on the proposed increased capital i.e. a further increase during the current year of not less than 20%.

The management figures available to me are encouraging and in the short term show that we are comfortably ahead of the equivalent figures for last year. I shall content myself by saying that the current year looks like being a good one.

John Wardle



Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary.

Hampson Court,
77 Birmingham Road,
West Bromwich,
West Midlands B70 6PY.

Observer

Wellbeing in Wales

Yesterday's announcement in Cardiff of the setting up of the Institute of Welsh Affairs—a symbol of gathering of the principal's greatest minds—the good—had to be explained from its original launch date next month because news of it leaked.

In itself a tribute to the Welsh in getting something of a bad reputation for keeping secrets. Only a couple of weeks ago, Cardiff Bay's plans for the appointment of a chief executive got into the papers, to the chagrin of all concerned.

Henry Kroch, one-time chairman of the successful high-tech concern AB Electronics, who heads the new organisation, denied the body would be a pressure group or a Celtic think-tank. "Think-tanks sometimes get things done and sometimes they don't," he carefully told a questioner. He also denied it was a Welsh version of England's positive National Forum.

The Scottish Council (Development and Industry) and a prominent local lawyer, Keith James of Phillips and Buck.

Waiting in the wings are others like Roger Mansfield, director of the Cardiff Business School, and David Jenkins, secretary of the Welsh TUC. All will be revealed next month.

Men and Matters

People prominent in their own fields who share a real concern for Wales and her future. Its objective is to promote the prosperity and wellbeing of Wales.

Its first task will be to study how to regenerate the industrial valleys. Profoundly involved in the development of the environment itself, working on "But

we are going to reinvent the wheel by repetition," he assured his listeners.

Who are the powerhouse people then? Sitting alongside Kroch on the platform were John Foley, the CBI's local man, Ian Kelsall, Idfaw Symonds, chairman of BTW (Wales), Sir Donald Waters, number two at the Welsh Development Agency, and a prominent local lawyer, Keith James of Phillips and Buck.

Waiting in the wings are others like Roger Mansfield, director of the Cardiff Business School, and David Jenkins, secretary of the Welsh TUC. All will be revealed next month.

Odds and ends

Punters at today's horse racing and greyhound meetings will also be able to place tax-free bets on anything from whether there will be a white Christmas to whether the Loch Ness monster will be found, thanks to a Customs and Excise ruling.

The 4 per cent tax on bets placed at racecourses was lifted in this year's Finance Act but the Excise claimed that this concession applied only to "sporting events." This week, following legal advice, it backed down and said that all on-course bets would be free of the tax.

The ruling will not bleed the Exchequer dry. Betting tax

collected at race meetings in 1985-86 amounted to £25m. Only a tiny proportion of this was related to activities other than horse or greyhound racing, say bookmakers Ladbrokes and William Hill.

Tax collected through betting shops on the other hand, where bets are subject to an 8 per cent levy—although most bookmakers charge 10 per cent—came to nearly £300m.

Nevertheless, the bookmakers are heralding the ruling as a victory of principle. "If it makes it easier for our punters to place bets, we welcome it," says William Hill.

Incidentally, the odds against a white Christmas are currently quoted by William Hill at 10-1.

At the Nice meeting discussions take place on dividing up

respect to both destination and home base time zones, thus avoiding crucial decisions

A CLASSIC "silly season" story—or the curtain raiser to a dazzling Stock Market coup? Recent speculation as to the identity of the mystery buyer of shares in Societe Generale de Belgique, Belgium's largest commercial and industrial holding company, is in some respects little different to the buzz surrounding any large company deemed vulnerable in a hostile takeover bid.

But the intense and distinctly unseasonal excitement of the Brussels Bourse over the past few weeks—record turnover in this “bellwether” stock and a 15 to 20 per cent jump in the share price—has excited the previously unthinkable possibility that a company variously described as a national institution, and Belgium's “alternative Government” could fall prey to a foreign predator.

It has also turned the spotlight on Viscount Edouard Davignon, a man who, as industry Commissioner and architect of Europe's famous steel restructuring plan, was once the European Community's closest equivalent to a household name.

Now 54 years old, Davignon joined the board of “La Generale” in late 1984. Right from the start, outsiders assumed that his wide experience

and international reputation would make him the ideal choice to succeed the present Governor René Lamy when the latter steps down.

The least fascinating element in the current drama is how the probate and instinctively open, if sometimes haughty “Stevie” (as he likes to be known) has settled in at a group whose name in Belgium is a byword for discretion. He has certainly performed a key role in developing La Generale's international operations, not least in the field of high technology. But until the recent crisis when his pronouncements have been increasingly prominent, his style has often been uncharacteristically coy.

Silly or not—and we are unlikely to know at least until an extraordinary general meeting on September 8—the recent “raid” has also raised wider questions of management style. It has highlighted the predilection of a company which like many in Europe is a very big fish at home—but has been struggling to survive and prosper in the stormier waters of

the global market place.

Mere statistics—a stock market capitalisation of around BF 100bn (£16bn) and 1986 profits of just over BF 5.31bn—do not adequately reflect the significance to the local economy or the place in the Belgian political firmament of Societe Generale de Belgique. It is not just that the company started life as the country's central bank 165 years ago with the King as sole shareholder, or that it remains housed in elegant headquarters between the Royal Palace and the House of Parliament on the Place de Bruxelles. The fact is that thanks to individual shareholders' obsession with secrecy and the traditional system of bearer shares which enables them to hide their identity, Societe Generale exercises the sort of influence through small minority stakes which would only be possible in the UK or the US if full majority control—ie 50 per cent of the shares—were acquired.

All in all Societe Generale's spiderlike web of connections extends to 1,267 Belgian and overseas companies taking in everything from financial services, electronics and chemicals to diamonds, cement and non-ferrous metals. Among the questions posed by the extraordinary events of the last few weeks is whether the last organisation since 1981 of the company's giant portfolio into 10 clear sectors, its new basic geographic areas like financial services and telecommunications, and its growing international orientation is progressing quickly enough or in direction.

The possibility that some

body else might want to take over the task or at least have a major say in the company's management was first raised in mid-June when Denis Vandervorcht one of Brussels' tiniest and least known stockbroking firms, began to acquire large numbers of shares on behalf of a still unknown client (or clients). Rumour mongers have since had field day, with Hanson Trust, Sir James Goldsmith, Carlo De Benedetti, and Nomura Securities of Japan among the more or less credible names which have been tossed into the air.

Such speculation has not been widely appreciated inside Societe Generale's imposing headquarters, especially since the company remains ignorant of the buyer and his intentions, and under Belgian law cannot force him to reveal his identity or the size of his stake. Nor have the directors taken kindly to suggestions that recent “friendly” discussions with the Japanese Sumitomo Corporation and Compagnie Generale d'Electricite (CGE), with a view to both taking stakes in the Belgian group, plus a proposal at the forthcoming meeting to increase the authorised capital by 60 per cent without offering existing shareholders preferential rights, are transparent

defensive manoeuvres, designed to deter an unwelcome raider. This is all quite consistent with the objectives which we set for ourselves well before these stories came out,” explained Davignon in a recent interview. He pointed out that the potential financial partners were companies with whom collaboration agreements already exist—Societe Generale itself has a stake of around 2.5 per cent in CGE and other links with the French company, notably through the telecommunications group Alcatel—and that the stakes envisaged would be relatively modest.

Davignon added: “The discussions have been in line with our declared policy of seeking stable, long-term international shareholders. In the same way that we are seeking to diversify our business activities internationally. It is the notion of a network of people who do things together and I don't think you can say that we have been proved wrong.”

Tempting as a break-up

might be for a foreign predator, the chances of breaking up the deep-rooted Belgian bonds which link the various parts of the Societe Generale empire would in practice be limited. Belgium is a small country where constraints and management cannot be as flexible as in the US. I accept that the European rhythm is not yet the US rhythm, but it may be that that is beyond what is reasonable,” observes Davignon, indicating clearly that he had for Societe Generale would fall into this category.

Davignon added: “That the recent buying was inspired in any way by the company itself, but there is a intriguing suspicion that friends of the group may have started an operation to support the share price, which subsequently got out of control. Alternatively, Japanese or American investors could have been jumping in ahead of next year's new placing of shares in the Tokyo market, an event which is expected to widen interest in the group.

Notwithstanding next month's meeting — at which a raider might be expected to declare his hand — the answer may continue to elude long after the silly season has passed.

Scotland is preparing for the poll tax. James Buxton reports.

Collectors cornered

THERE IS a captivating painting in the National Gallery of Scotland called *Distraint for the Rent* (right), by the early 19th-century artist Sir David Wilkie. It shows a bailiff and his two assistants preparing to seize the household effects of a tenant who has defaulted on his rent. The tenant and his numerous family are in despair, but the bailiff is sternly undaunted.

If he were alive today Wilkie would probably have been signed up to provide lurid images for the Scottish local authorities in their campaign against the community charge. The government's new flat-rate charge on residents replaces rates at a stroke in Scotland in 1989, having been approved by Parliament just before the June general election.

But, as Mr Charles Grey, the Labour leader of Strathclyde Regional Council, Scotland's biggest local authority, says, “We are fighting a desperate rear-guard action in the hope that the government will finally see sense.” For the past year members of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, a Labour-dominated body, have

refused to have any discussions with the Scottish Office on how the poll tax—the only name for the community charge which Mr Grey will tolerate—will be implemented.

In Glasgow's Italianate City Chambers Mr William English, the director of finance for the district council, gloomily contemplates the impending destruction of his neat system for collecting rates. In Scotland (unlike England) the upper tier authorities—the regional councils—are responsible for collecting rates. Strathclyde issues individual rate demands to Glasgow's owner-occupiers, and sends one single rate demand to the district council to cover the city's 165,000 council tenants—who represent no less than two-thirds of all households in the city. The district council, which collects rent and rates from its tenants in a single payment, transfers the rates to the regional council.

All that will end when the community charge comes in. First, Strathclyde regional council will have to compile and keep up to date a computerised register of everybody over 18 throughout the region, with its charge has to be collected

register will be put together by the tenants—the regional council will deal with the owner occupiers. A completely separate system from the rent collection operation will be required since more than half the poll tax payers are different people from the tenants.

We have some tenants under 18 who pay rent, but will not be eligible for the community charge,” he explains, while there will be at least 140,000 people aged over 18 who live with them who will be expected to pay the poll tax.

At the moment a lot of

tenants pay us some money

when they are flush. We divide that up between rent and rates. But that won't work for the poll tax. How would we decide if the money's for the tenant's poll tax or his wife's poll tax, or his 18-year-old son's?”

Maintaining the register, says Mr English, “is all right where people don't move much. But we find that the electoral roll is only 93 per cent accurate here when it is drawn, and on top of that about 25 per cent of the population of Glasgow moves once a year.

The problems for Mr English's finance department begin when the charge has to be collected

because of the people who don't cover this from social security, though the mechanism for this has still to be worked out.

Glasgow district expects that only 50 per cent of the community charge can be collected in the city. That assumption is untested, and the Government, as well as some Scottish local government officials, consider it far too pessimistic. Mr English believes that if there is widespread non-payment there will be a backlash from the unlucky upright citizen who pays and then finds the community charge going up

increasingly irritated at this stream of negative comments from local authorities, since they believe that won the argument when the community charge was passed by parliament. The Government has never denied that the community charge will be more “same place.” That he says, could mean that canvassing turned into snooping and councils might be pressed to offer bounty to people who report poll tax evaders. “It's the social antagonisms between the payers and the non-payers that I'm afraid of,” he says.

Scottish Office ministers are on top of the present £20m. Strathclyde, which covers almost half the population of Scotland, has estimated that it will need 270 extra staff to operate the system plus almost 100 canvassers. It puts the capital cost of setting up the system at £5m, and annual running costs at £8.6m.

Yesterday the Scottish Office issued a Commencement Order under which councils must start preparing to implement the community charge from September 14. The local authorities have indicated that they do not intend to break the law by doing nothing.



Taxpayer's lament: Glasgow thinks 20 per cent of the poll tax will go uncollected.

Constantly variable

From the Chairman, Society of Business Economists

Sir.—Professor Simpson's article (August 20) on a mission for economists came to some of the right conclusions but ignored much relevant evidence about the profession. It is misleading to say that it is “composed largely of academics and civil servants enjoying life-long job security.” As business economists (with over 600 members), we have a clear mission to analyse, forecast and advise wherever the economy and our employing organisations interact.

Prof Simpson is, of course, correct when he refers to the importance of understanding human behaviour which distinguishes the study of economics from the natural sciences. While the economic context is sufficiently similar to natural science as to permit forecasts to be made, the learning and adaptive element means that such forecasts always contain an element of uncertainty. Good professional practice by business economists is to present forecasts with confidence limits and probabilities, not single points, and to describe the impact of sensitivity and risk analysis on the forecasts. Even the Treasury's macroeconomic modellers, sharply criticised by Prof. Professor, now publish the range of error in their past forecasts.

Nevertheless, something has gone wrong in the world of economics for articles like Prof. Professor's to be written and published in the serious Press. I believe that the reasons lie in mistakes made on both the supply and demand sides of the market for economists' services.

When this society was founded (1953) only one year's detailed national accounts for the UK had been published, while a computer was still a scientific device full of hot valves and about the size of a house. Complete econometric modelling was impossible then, whereas today, with a wealth of data and easy access to cheap and powerful computers, it is relatively easy. As a new, “high technology” activity it has attracted many excellent people, not all of whom have had a solid grounding in economics as a study of human behaviour. (Regrettably it now appears quite common for schools to encourage good pupils in the natural sciences, especially mathematics and physics, to think of taking up economics as a similar discipline, instead of pointing out its close relationship to behavioural subjects like history).

It is my view that too much emphasis has thus been placed on econometric modelling. Since modelling is based on past data, it has not worked well when fundamental changes within the economy have been occurring, as has been the case ever since

Letters to the Editor

the first oil crisis in 1973. The constants in the modellers' equations have proved as variable as the variables.

On the demand side there has been substantial funding, both public and private for that part of economics which appeared to use the latest technology and was thus thought to offer more accuracy and certainty. Competition for funds by forecasting institutions and for recognition by analysts in the securities markets has aggravated this situation. Media interest is much greater when different forecasts can be quoted to make a story and lead to tabloid sensationalism. The detailed qualifications and explanations in the texts supporting the forecasts are largely ignored.

I would certainly agree with Professor Simpson's call for the centrality of human behaviour in economics to be emphasised in the world at large, as it always has been in the more private world of the business economist. Since you, Sir, have now started the process by publishing the Professor's article can we expect you to continue to give more weight to economic analysis and less to the simplification of the results of econometric modelling?

David Kingston,
11 Bay Tree Walk,
Watford, Herts.

Achievements in Manchester

From Mr R. Turner

Sir.—Mr A. Lucking (August 25) suggests a third runway at Heathrow as the solution to the air traffic congestion problem of the south-east. He also quotes a report by the air traffic users committee that traffic flows in the regions are too small to support direct services.

Why then is Manchester Europe's fastest-growing airport in the present time, currently breaking all records and introducing new services to all points around the globe, despite restrictions imposed by Government which, if lifted, would see greater passenger growth?

In the past two years, new direct scheduled services have opened up from Manchester to the Middle East, Chicago, Israel, Singapore and Moscow, as well as numerous new destinations around Western Europe.

Your correspondent also suggests that Qantas rerouted its flights from Manchester to Australia through Heathrow because of lack of support. If

point out the difficulties and dangers of privatising electricity supply. It suggested that it would be preferable to restructure the industry by inserting commercial disciplines into its operations and exposing the CEB to competition. I said “Control of the main transmission network would leave the CEB in a dominant position.”

This is still my view but the Government was elected with a mandate to privatise and it is now important to ensure that competition is introduced. John Lyons desires a single generating unit whereas I prefer two or more to create competition but the key to the situation is ownership and control of the “grid” which, if competition is to be effective, must be separated from generation.

If there is one thing worse than a public monopoly it is a private monopoly.

Stanley Steward,
41 Fairhurst,
Roehampton Lane, SW15

NZ butter in Britain

From Mr I. Robinson

Sir.—Mr Anthony Rosen urges us (August 25) to “inject” non-emotional financial sense” into the debate about New Zealand butter “and allow everyone concerned with this fiscal to save (taxpayers') money.” In the saving the taxpayers' money is the decisive factor should not we bear in mind that if a free market operated, no taxpayers' money would be spent at all? In those circumstances, it is conceivable that New Zealand butter could compete successfully with other butter. Imports of New Zealand butter into this country are a casualty of subsidy, not except in the most marginal and accidental way. A benefit of being a subsidy is to be subsidised, as Mr Rosen seems to assume, and if we therefore remove the argument back into an area where emotional content may be allowed, it is possible to believe that the farmers of New Zealand are more deserving of subsidy than those beneficiaries of our new corn laws, the farmers of France, Germany and Ireland.

Ian Robinson,
Brynmill Press,
Cross Hill Cottage,
Grisley-on-the-Hill,
Doncaster, Yorks.

A strategy for electricity

From Mr S. Steward

Sir.—I am afraid that a protracted engagement at Lords has delayed my comment on the letters (August 18) on electricity.

The article which John Lyons quotes was written in 1984 to

How NYK's Fine-Tuned Cooling System warms the heart of a French farmer.



NYK's Fine-Tuned Cooling System brings the delicacy of Camembert and Brie to Japan at half the shipping cost of air freight. So naturally many more people will be buying fine French cheeses and French farmers will be smiling much more.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Friday August 28 1987

Tiphook
Trailers, Containers and
Rail Wagons move
around the world.
Tiphook

Stewart Fleming in Wyoming reports on the future of US financial services industry

Commerce not made welcome at the bank

WHEN Mr Paul Volcker stepped down as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board earlier this month he retired with a victory which he may come to value as much as any he won in his years of public service.

In the banking reform bill, which President Ronald Reagan reluctantly signed at the beginning of the month, was a provision Mr Volcker fought for and which could have had an influence in shaping the future of the American financial services industry along lines he favours.

The law imposes a total ban on so-called "non-bank banks" - unregulated bank-like companies. In doing so, Federal Reserve officials say it places a barrier to the merger of banking and commerce, a trend which has been accelerating in recent years as firms outside the banking business have moved into it by exploiting legal loopholes.

But by banning "non-bank banks" and imposing a moratorium until March next year on moves by bank regulators to sidestep Congress and implement the sort of restructuring of the US financial system which is taking place in London, Tokyo and in Canada, Congress has also hauled once again at addressing the complex issue of how to reform an American financial system which all agree badly needs to be remodelled.

Mr Volcker, who also argued in favour of major reform of the US financial system, nevertheless fought tenaciously against the two third attempts to strip ownership of unregulated bank-like companies by commercial entities such as retailer Sears and Roebuck.

Opposed to him were ardent deregulators in the Reagan Administration and companies such as Citicorp, the New York bank which believed that bank profitability could be enhanced by economic deregulation and company welfare improved by removing restraints on the freedom of banks to diversify into non-financial businesses or commercial enterprises to buy banks.

Along with Mr Alan Greenspan, the new Fed chairman,



Alan Greenspan (left) and his predecessor Paul Volcker

they believe that provided a suitable regulatory "firewall" can be constructed to protect the bank and its depositors from being exploited, there is no reason to prevent any sort of business from owning a bank, whether a fast food chain, such as MacDonald's, or a car manufacturer such as Ford.

Mr Volcker is not alone in his conviction, shared for example by Dr Henry Kaufman, the Salomon Brothers economist, that banks, because of the key role they play in the economy and because of their responsibility to those who entrusted hundreds of billions of dollars to their safekeeping, are "special" institutions whose activities must be carefully regulated.

Criticising financial deregulation are deeply sceptical, moreover, of the claims that suitable regulations can be drawn up to insulate a bank which is part of a larger group from, for example, either being exploited by commercial companies into the banking business or from a damaging erosion of confidence

they believe that provided a suitable regulatory "firewall" can be constructed to protect the bank and its depositors from being exploited, there is no reason to prevent any sort of business from owning a bank, whether a fast food chain, such as MacDonald's, or a car manufacturer such as Ford.

Even Mr Seidman conceded that his own proposal, which would also allow commercial banks unrestricted entry into the investment banking business of securities underwriting, should only be implemented slowly.

The stalemate on Capitol Hill among the interest groups involved in the financial sector suggests, in the judgment of ex-Citicorp chairman James Gutfreund, a Washington banking consultant, that Mr Seidman will not be able to put together a coalition of political support strong enough to force through a radical reform of the US financial system.

The Congressional banking committees, moreover, are un-

der the control of Democrats who are sceptical about the creation of large and powerful financial conglomerates, while the influence of the free market ideologues of the Reagan Administration is rapidly waning.

The likelihood is, therefore, that rather than sweeping reforms of the financial sector the US over the next few years will see a continuation of the incremental changes "muddling through" Mr Golembec called it, which has taken place in recent years.

Moreover, if it were to open the evidence suggests it would only be in the context of such a strict regulatory regime and a reform of the deposit insurance laws which would make it much less attractive for commercial and financial firms to merge.

At the conference held in Wyoming last week it was striking that even staunch deregulators such as Mr William Seidman, the chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and a Citicorp representative, Mr Thomas Hueston, both proposed reforms which would allow commercial and banking firms to belong to the same company, also accepted the need for stricter regulation as part of such a system.

Indeed, Mr Gerald Corrigan, the president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank and a man who believes that banking and commerce should be kept apart, maintained that constructing an effective regulatory system which would not risk its depositors would require such regulatory overkill that it would make owning a bank by a commercial concern an unattractive proposition.

As Dr Kaufman maintains, the questions about how to restructure the US financial system are among the most fateful America will make in the closing years of the century and will help to determine how well the US economy overall performs.

It is hard to disagree with Mr Corrigan, who argues that today the risks associated with radical reforms of the US financial system do not appear to be worth the uncertain rewards to those who maintain the old-style American banking firms behind rivals in countries such as Japan, the response should be that, if true, that is in larger part the price of macro-economic policy mismanagement, and that, as a cure, radical financial restructuring may be worse than the disease.

The stalemate on Capitol Hill among the interest groups involved in the financial sector suggests, in the judgment of ex-Citicorp chairman James Gutfreund, a Washington banking consultant, that Mr Seidman will not be able to put together a coalition of political support strong enough to force through a radical reform of the US financial system.

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Italy acts to curb consumer demand

By John Wyles in Rome

ITALY'S new Christian Democratic government yesterday pushed up domestic interest rates and unveiled an emergency decree designed to curb consumer demand and put an end to speculation on a devaluation of the lira.

The measures appeared designed as much for political as economic impact after five months of political crisis and elections during which the country seemed to be drifting towards higher inflation and balance of payments difficulties.

The tax package is designed to raise L3.400bn (82.6bn) in new revenues, although Mr Giuliano Amato, who became Italy's first Socialist Treasury Minister a month ago, said this was not the main purpose.

Domestic demand was overheated in relation to output growth, said Mr Amato, and with the import bill rising, the markets needed reassuring in the face of recurrent talk of devaluation.

In a subsequent statement announcing an increase in the Bank of Italy's discount rate from 11.5 per cent to 12 per cent, the Treasury said the move underlined its commitment to a stable lira. It also suggested that package did away with the need for sterner monetary measures.

With the exception of a 1.60% increase in the price of a litre of petrol from L1.290 to L1.350, the Government has not imposed any new permanent taxes. The package's main impact on consumer demand - currently growing at an annual rate of 5 per cent - should come from a 4 percentage point rise in VAT rates on cars, hi-fi, video, photographic equipment, and household furniture and electrical goods. However, the high rates will only apply until the end of December.

David Churchill assesses suitors for Hilton hotels

Key to unlock the world

WHEN the Hilton International chain of 90 hotels worldwide was acquired by Allegis of the US late last year, many other would-be suitors were left with the knowledge that they had failed to acquire one of the prime hotel chains in the world.

Now that Allegis - which is currently in the process of changing its name back to United Airlines as part of its restructuring process - has signalled its willingness to sell the hotel chain as soon after it was acquired, it is not surprising that as many as 35 potential bidders are rumoured to have emerged.

Of these, many are not really serious contenders. But the clear front runners are airlines such as Lufthansa and JAL and existing hotel chains such as the French company Accor and the UK's Bass and Ladbrooke groups.

But a number of other candidates may yet emerge, such as the Barclay brothers with their hotel and property empire which includes the Howard hotel in New York, Pan American and on London's Embankment.

Hilton International, which has some 90 hotels in 44 countries, was separated out from the much larger Hilton Hotels Corporation back in the mid-1960s as a means of raising finance for the parent company.

The two groups remain financially independent of each other although they share a joint reservations system, reputed to be one of the best hotel systems in the world.

What makes Hilton International such an attractive proposition to so many rival operators is that it offers a rare chance to capture so many prime sites in major capitals of the world. "Hilton established itself in the international marketplace over many years ago and not surprisingly it is able to get some of the best sites available," points out Mr Terry Barlow, regional vice-president in charge of operations for Marriott in the UK and Europe.

TOP TEN HOTEL CHAINS WORLDWIDE 1986

	Rooms	Hotels
Holiday Inn	357,614	1,907
Sheraton	142,000	508
Intercontinental	100,000	375
Marriott	97,535	271
Quality Inn	95,393	801
Days Inn	79,000	505
Marriott	75,277	165
THF	74,800	793
Accor	62,410	234
Prime Motor Inns	60,000	500

*Unconnected with Hilton International Source: Hotel & Restaurant International

The outlook for the world economy is generally bullish, which has benefited the international chains which gain much of their business from business travellers, points out Ms O'Brien.

In addition, she points out, there is a steady growth in international tourism in spite of temporary problems such as those caused in Europe last year after the Libyan bombing and Chernobyl incidents when many Americans stayed at home.

It is this growth in international travel that has made the leading international airlines themselves key players in the hotel industry. Hilton International, for example, is capturing a bigger share of the world's airline passengers.

Hilton International has two stakes in an international hotel chain spun off from British Airways, which has never owned one.

It might, however, soon acquire one if it succeeds in merging with British Caledonian, since ECal owns the Cophorne chain.

Most of the leading hotels remain very optimistic about the future of the worldwide industry. Holiday Inn, for example, is planning to build 150 new hotels in Europe by the early 1990s, of which 25 will be in the UK.

The majority of these new hotels will be its new three-star chain called "Garden Courts", although Holiday Inn is also developing its luxury Crowne Plaza concept in Europe. The first UK Crowne Plaza was opened recently in Manchester.

Apart from the emerging major international hotel chains, the pressure for sites in Europe is also coming from small luxury hotel groups.

The battle for Hilton International, therefore, is only likely to be a foretaste of the struggle to come for the best hotels and sites in the world.

Sweden launches Nobel inquiry

Continued from Page 1

- What export prices should be fixed respectively in Europe and overseas;
- What target prices should be aimed at for specific products;
- Which companies would get which national markets.

Mr Eva Pfeiffel, director of section of oil and gas of the Swedish Competition Commission, said:

"This is unique material. We have never seen such clear proof before. It is often maintained that there are international cartels operating in different business areas, but normally there are no papers to prove it."

The Swedish cartel authorities are now investigating Bofors and Nobel Industries in an attempt to discover in what form the two companies have colluded since 1985 and which companies are involved.

Bofors was asked to provide more information by August 10, but it has requested and been granted a delay until September 1.

According to the NO memorandum, the Bofors documents have not yet been passed on to the cartel authorities in the European Community or in EC member states.

Sweden is not a member of the European Community, and although the highly compromising material exposed by the customs investigation is available in Stockholm, there is no established mechanism for passing it to EC officials in Brussels. The regulations under which the Swedish cartel authorities operate limit the scope of their investigation to the isolated part of the cartel on the Swedish market.

An EC official in Brussels said, meanwhile, that the Community would have no powers to examine the alleged cartels provided they were confined to the military trade.

Philippines coup attempt

Continued from Page 1

sealed off all entrances to the presidential palace.

Two hours after the first shots were fired, the area around the presidential palace was eerily quiet, but the street was littered with empty shells from Armalite M-16 rifles and hand grenade pins.

General Ramos said in the radio broadcast this morning that rumours indicating the rebel soldiers were supporters of himself and of General Juan Ponce Enrile, the former Defence Secretary, were untrue.

The memories of the Wapping dispute may be fading, but the financial implications of Mr Rupert Murdoch's dramatic victory over the Fleet Street print unions continue to underpin the growth of his worldwide empire.

The UK and Australian arms of the group follow different accounting conventions and the best guide to underlying performance is contained in the parent News Corporation figures which show that a near doubling in the UK contribution accounted for over half of the 50 per cent rise in pre-interest profits to A\$97.5m.

A marginal reduction in UK production costs was the primary reason for the impressive UK performance helped by increased circulation and advertising revenues for most of the UK nationals. The current year will be far less dramatic since the UK operations will have to shoulder heavy losses from the recent acquisition of Today and the impact of Wapping has already flowed through to the bottom line.

Over the last couple of years News Corporation has lifted its net profits before extraordinary items from A\$96.1m to A\$106.6m and this has been matched by a sharp performance which has more than rewarded Mr Murdoch's adventurous backers.

The key question now is whether Mr Murdoch can conjure up another quantum leap in the assets of his group which is capitalising at 50% in the world's stock markets. The acquisition of the South China Morning Post and the Herald & Weekly Times will help, but the most obvious area for growth is the US where the group is working hard to make a success of its expensive network of TV stations.

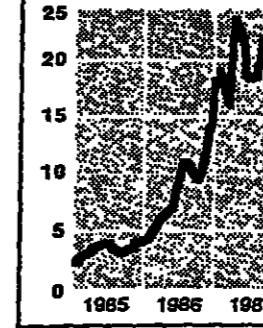
The jury is still out regarding the wisdom of this acquisition and the 50% interest charge of A\$390.5m underlines the continuing financial pressures the group is facing.

THE LEX COLUMN

Looking for an encore

News Corp.

Share price (Australian \$)



But the possibilities, after all, range beyond property to housing, building and international construction.

For Mountleigh, winning the backing of PPFPUT's committee brings the powerful advantage of a 50 per cent vote from unitholders to sell off the assets of the trust, whereas Trafalgar needed 75 per cent for formal liquidation.

As Marley's share price rises, it seems unlikely that the institutions who were 45 per cent in favour of Trafalgar will produce a majority against a higher offer.

Nor will the buying of PPFPUT be easily dismissed. Mr Clegg's acquisition for Storehouse particularly if they were to take the form of a pre-sold deal involving Mountleigh only briefly as principal. Or so the market seemed to think yesterday, marking Storehouse down by only 1p to 39.5p.

Ladbroke

The market had been primed to expect good things from Ladbrokes in interim and the 81 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £22.1m barely denting the share price. Marley's bid for Ladbroke is in a much better shape, even though the group's financial transformation has involved the forced shedding of one of the "crown jewels" - the Payless DIY chain - the three new acquisitions have more than offset the loss, contributing £14m to the pre-interest level in the latest period.

Marley's rejuvenation has been helped by increased trading in its motor vehicles, but the group has reduced its dependence on the new housing market and putting more emphasis on the less cyclical refurbishment market. As a result, its recovery looks to be fairly safe in the face of a major recession. The 18 per cent rise in the interim dividend, certainly witness to a new note of confidence.

Mountleigh/PPPUT

At first sight, Mountleigh's agreed bid for the Pension Fund Property Unit Trust (PPPUT) is a neat coup for Mr Tony Clegg and a corresponding triumph for Sir Nigel Evans, who supplanted Sir Nigel Evans as property man of the moment. The two cases are not identical.

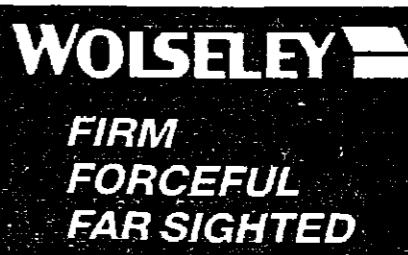
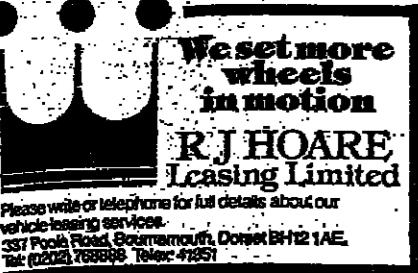
The extra 11 per cent being offered by Mountleigh might be justified for a dealer buying wholesale and selling promptly at a retail mark-up, whereas it seems to have been Trafalgar's intention to hold a good part of the PPFPUT portfolio as an investment. The main drawback for Trafalgar's shareholders now - notwithstanding underwriters' aside - is what the group has in mind for its freshly raised cash.

For the smaller, profit-seeking multiple of a little over 15. For a company of this size and growth record, better might be expected. But though the whiff of

SECTION II - COMPANIES AND MARKETS

FINANCIAL TIMES

Friday August 28 1987



NEW YORK FIRM MOVES TO DEFEND WELL-MANAGED COMPANIES UNDER ATTACK

US Lazard launches white knight fund

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY IN NEW YORK

A \$25m "white knight fund" for the defence of well-managed companies that are threatened by hostile take-over bids, is to be launched by Lazard Frères, the private New York investment banking firm.

Lazard, which has been one of the most active and profitable participants in the current merger boom on Wall Street despite its practice of never bidding corporate raiders, has already raised more than \$1bn from institutional investors since May, when it began marketing the idea of a takeover defence fund.

The fund, to be called Crossroads Partners, is likely to be formally launched within the next few

months. It would invest in "established companies with a significant gap between stock prices and inherent values," according to a partner at Lazard.

However, unlike conventional investment institutions, Crossroads Partners would buy large strategic stakes of 10 to 30 per cent in such companies. Unlike the many leveraged buyout and arbitrage funds that have proliferated on Wall Street, Lazard would always back established managements in their restructuring efforts against outside raiders.

The hope is to provide companies with a "source of capital that can be counted on" in the event of threatened takeovers, the Lazard partner said. Over the three to five-year period which would be the new fund's normal time horizon, Lazard believes that such a policy could prove extremely profitable at present for a number of reasons:

- Sophisticated managers of large corporations are now aware of the vulnerability of their companies to takeovers and the need to maximise their companies' values to shareholders. Lazard would hope to invest in such companies before any takeover threat was manifested and thus benefit fully from their restructuring.
- Companies "lose some of their value by being forced to restructure under pressure" and thus backing established managements can frequently be more profitable than taking companies over.
- So much money has recently gone into various arbitrage and leveraged buyout funds that the return on such investment is bound to suffer. By contrast, few investors have made a deliberate practice of backing threatened companies. Those that have, including Mr Warren Buffet's Berkshire Hathaway and General Cinema of Boston, have frequently found this to be a profitable venture.

Agreement by Lornex ends mine battle

By David Owen in Toronto

A CORPORATE battle that has raged for nearly two years over a major British Columbia copper deposit has ended with Lornex Mining, 60 per cent held by RTZ-controlled Rio Algom, agreeing to take over a copper mine and mill in Highland Valley owned by Teck Corporation of Vancouver.

The deal will cost Lornex C\$175m (US\$121m) and give Teck and two foreign partners a 5 per cent stake in Highland Valley Copper, a company formed to exploit the deposit.

The dispute began in early 1986 when Lornex cut a deal with Cominco, then a Canadian Pacific subsidiary, jointly to operate their copper assets in the region, hence continuing Cominco's comparatively rich mine with Lornex's better mill.

According to Teck chief executive, Mr Norman Keevil, this contravened an agreement between Teck and Lornex that neither would strike a deal with Cominco without the other.

Cannon Group sinks deeper into loss

BY OUR NEW YORK STAFF

CANNON GROUP, the troubled international film production and distribution company controlled by Mr Michael Golan and Mr Yoram Globus, sank deeper into losses in its second fiscal quarter, raising the possibility of a potentially costly forced restructuring within the next few months.

Cannon, which has not yet resolved a long-running investigation into its accounting practices by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), lost \$12m after tax in the three months ended July 4 after a loss of \$10m in the previous quarter.

Comparisons with the previous year's results were not available because of the continuing SEC investigation and "constraints of time, cost and the availability of accounting records," Cannon did explain, however, that its losses reflected weak theatrical performance of its recent film releases.

The losses also reflect a big reduction in film distribution revenues as Cannon has been forced to sell the rights to many of its films

Group turnover at KHD slips to DM2.1bn

By Helga Simonian in Frankfurt

GROUP TURNOVER AT KLÖCKNER-HUMBOLDT-DEUTZ (KHD), the West German engineering and farm machinery group, fell to DM2.1bn (\$1.15bn) in the first six months of 1987 from DM2.3bn in the same period last year.

However, despite the "unchanged difficult circumstances" in all its major business areas, the company expects to maintain group turnover of October 3. As an immediate short-term solution, Cannon has agreed to sell \$11m worth of stock to a Luxembourg company, Inter-corporation, which is controlled by Messrs Golan and Globus, along with Inter-part, another Luxembourg-based company.

If the stock purchase had been completed by the second quarter, Cannon said that its net worth would have been \$42.5m. This suggests that the company will have to cut its losses in the current quarter by more than half, to less than \$5m, if it is to maintain its equity above \$37.5m and keep within its loan covenants.

KHD's operating profits, which were not given for the interim period, should improve this year, the group said, after slipping into the red in 1986. The company intends to continue its "adjustment strategy" so far as costs and capacity are concerned. KHD's workforce decreased by 884 to 18,076 during the latest half-year.

NEW ISSUE

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

August, 1987



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Warrants

to subscribe for shares of common stock of Sumitomo Construction Co., Ltd.

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New England banks in interstate merger

BY GORDON CRAVEN IN NEW YORK

TWO New England banks have announced an interstate merger between them which they said would create the 21st largest bank holding company in the US, with assets of more than \$25bn.

Shawmut, based in Massachusetts, and Hartford National, which operates Connecticut National Bank, are to combine through a share exchange in what they described as "a merger of equals."

Shawmut, the smaller of the two with assets of \$10bn, will see its name survive in the new Shawmut National, with shareholders in the Boston institution receiving 1.8

shares in the new company for each Shawmut share held. Holders of Hartford stock will be offered Shawmut National shares on a one-for-one basis.

The two banks have also come to a mutual options agreement allowing each to buy uninsured shares in the other representing up to a quarter of fully diluted equity.

"Our organisations will continue to serve their individual markets, while together as a corporation we will offer expanded financial products on a more competitive and efficient basis," the bank said.

Olida-Caby launches restructuring

OLIDA-CABY, the leading French charcuterie group, has launched its financial restructuring plan after the losses in 1986 which almost wiped out its capital base.

The group will first write down its capital by half and then raise FF196m (\$33m) of new funds by a two-for-three equity issue. This will be followed by a FF250m issue of bonds with attached warrants.

Mr Jean-Louis Riallin, Olida's new chairman, said the company, which lost FF115m in 1986, had reduced losses in the first half of this year compared with the same period of 1986.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

25th August, 1987



FUJISAWA PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY LIMITED

U.S. \$100,000,000

3 per cent. Notes due 1992

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Warrants

to subscribe for shares of common stock of Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Company Limited

Issue Price 100 per cent.

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Daiwa Europe Limited

DKB International Limited

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Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited

J.P. Morgan Securities Asia Ltd.

New Japan Securities Europe Limited

The Nikko Securities Co., (Europe) Ltd.

Salomon Brothers International Limited

J. Henry Schroder Wag & Co. Limited

Shearson Lehman Brothers International

INTL. COMPANIES and FINANCE

Renison Goldfields ahead on mineral sands and gold

BY BRUCE JACQUES IN SYDNEY

RENISON GOLDFIELDS Consolidated (RGC), the diversified Australian miner, whose major shareholder is Consolidated Goldfields of the UK, has confirmed its resurgence from a mid-1980's profit slump.

With mineral sands and gold as the star performers, RGC lifted after-tax profits 138.6 per cent - from A\$21.1m to A\$58.6m (US\$35.6m) in the June year. Shareholders will share in the spoils with the A\$16m.

Earnings at the company's annual dividend at 15c a share, the mining and oil of it or capital increased more than 80

per cent by two bonus issues during the year. Payout is up from A\$11.1m to A\$17.2m.

The mineral sands division dominated pre-tax earnings, which jumped from A\$4.8m to A\$6.6m on the back of both production and price increases.

The year also marked RGC's first appreciable earnings from gold with the 80 per cent-owned Pine Creek gold mine in the Northern Territory lifting its contribution from a negligible A\$26.6m to

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Toyota Motor down 18%

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

TOYOTA MOTOR reported unconsolidated pre-tax profits of Yen 1.5bn (US\$2.73bn) in the year to June 30, 1987, down 18.5 per cent from the previous year. Net profits were 21.5 per cent lower, at Y200.2bn. Sales for the past year were Y6,043.9bn, down 4.4 per cent from the previous year.

This was the first profit and sales drop since the company was established in 1933 through a merger of Toyota Motor and Toyota Motor Sales, and was blamed on reduced exports caused by the appreciation of the yen.

Operating profits declined by 24.8 per cent, to Y248.3bn. Toyota spelled out the factors contributing to the decrease in operating profits as follows:

factors contributing to increased operating profits were: rationalisation - Y60.0bn; sales promotion - Y60.0bn; lower business tax - Y24.0bn.

Toyota will pay an annual dividend of Y18.5 per share - Y12 ordinary dividend, Y4 extraordinary dividend, Y4.25 in commemorative dividend to mark the 50th anniversary of the company's founding in November.

For the current fiscal year to June 1988, Toyota sees maintained pre-tax profits and an annual turnover of Y6,000bn, down 0.4 per cent.

For the three months to June 30, 1987, sales to sales promotion efforts

however, exports fell 8.4 per cent due to a sharp drop in sales to US which outweighed an increase in European sales.

Operating profits declined by 24.8 per cent, to Y248.3bn. Toyota spelled out the factors contributing to the decrease in operating profits as follows:

current exchange rate losses - Y27.0bn; increased personnel costs - Y39.0bn; higher depreciation costs - Y36.0bn. The

bank expects to make a pre-tax profit of Y60.5bn for the year to August 1988, giving the new shares a prospective price/earnings ratio of 34.

Bank of Commerce was started by a Chinese family in the East Malaysian state of Sarawak in 1924. It was taken over by the Fleet Group in 1978. Bank of Commerce's one ringgit shares are to be sold

from South Africa. The project finance division benefited from a resurgence of capital spending in some sectors of the economy. Additional capital of between F30m and R40m is to be raised.

Banking analysts in Johannesburg expect the additional capital to be raised by means of a public offer of shares.

The directors say the corporate finance division achieved record results due to a spate of new listings on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and foreign companies divesting

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UK COMPANY NEWS

Core growth lifts Ladbroke 81%

BY CLAY HARRIS

Ladbroke Group yesterday reported record interim pre-tax profits of £55.2m, an 81 per cent increase on the £30.5m achieved in the first half of 1986. Earnings per share soared by 46 per cent to 11.17p from 8p after adjustment for the three-for-10 rights issue in April.

Mr Cyril Stein, chairman, said the group's four core activities—betting, hotels, property and DIY retailing—were all prospering in growing markets, although Ladbroke gave no divisional breakdown of turnover and profits. Overall turnover rose by 24 per cent to £869.7m (£778.9m).

"The excellent results demonstrate our ability to achieve consistent earnings growth," Mr Stein said.

The strong pre-tax advance reflects in part Ladbroke's de-

liverable move away from activities with profit contributions heavily biased towards the second half and is unlikely to be matched in the full year, although many analysts now expect a 50 per cent rise over 1986.

Estimated profits from Texas Homecare, for example, are believed to be double the total contribution last year from 10 weeks of the DIY chain as well as Lasky's, the electrical retailer, and Ladbroke's bingo clubs, both subsequently sold.

Ladbroke has still not touched the £25m proceeds of its rights issue, although it helped to reduce interest costs to £1.13m (£13.7m).

Of two companies currently available with expected £500m plus price tags, Ladbroke confirmed its interest in the 94 Hilton International hotels being sold by Allegis, the US air-

line and travel group, but said it would not pursue MPT, the furniture chain which is being divorced from Asia.

Ladbroke expects to be among perhaps four serious contenders to buy Hilton Hotels when the field of play opens from the current twelve dozen suitors.

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WPP pays up to £23m for three acquisitions

BY NIKKI TAIT

WPP, the UK marketing services company which two months ago won a £251m bid for the substantially larger Madison Avenue-based JWT Group, yesterday returned to the acquisition trail with the purchase of two London-based advertising companies in the US and Europe—London & Leeds, and the Rowden Inns hotel franchise business in the UK.

An extraordinary credit of £19.7m was similar to the £20.2m figure last year and reflected net proceeds of dividends of £1.5m from the first half.

WPP paid £1.3m for the £2.5m joint venture to redevelop 130,000 sq ft at Angel Gate, Islington, near the City. Proprietary developments are proceeding rapidly in the US and Europe—London & Leeds, the US subsidiary, had 2m sq ft completed or under construction and were planning another 1m sq ft of developments by the end of 1988.

Retail betting operations had

See Lex

maintained UK market leadership in a field which saw excellent trading in live race telecasts by Satellite Information Services, the company partly owned by WPP, had been well received.

Sales had been consistently good at Texas, which was increasing its selling space to 5m sq ft by the end of the year and 6m sq ft by the end of 1988.

An extraordinary credit of £19.7m was similar to the £20.2m figure last year and reflected net proceeds of dividends of £1.5m from the first half.

See Lex

Acquisitions boost Marley interim profits to £25m

BY DAVID WALLER

Marley, the much restructured building materials group, has increased its profits for the six months ended June 30 by more than two and a half times.

Boosted by recent acquisitions, the £15.4m rise in taxable profits to £25.1m was in line with City forecasts and the shares rose 2p to close at £14.5p.

We understand the company changed the shape of the company," said Mr George Russell, chief executive. "There is no longer the traditional imbalance between profits in the first and second halves."

He said that Marley's dependence on buoyant new housing markets was lessening as it undertook more work in the refurbishment sector. Trading conditions for the second half are expected to look favourable, he said, despite the recent rise in basic rates.

Turnover rose by 22.7m to

£277.1m (£268.4m). The interim dividend was increased by 17.8 per cent to 1.65p per share.

Of total operating profits of £28.9m (£15.2m), some £14m came from Thermalite and General Shale and Nottingham Brick, the three companies bought for a total of over £150m in the last year.

Included in last year's operating profits was a £1.7m contribution from Pavex, Marley's former ICI subsidiary which was sold to Ward White for £94m in March.

Profits for the company's additional tiling business were 53 per cent ahead at £4.9m, against £3.2m in the same period last year.

The tax charge was £7.6m (£4.4m), 30.1 per cent of taxable profits, down from the 45.3 per cent charge in the same period last year, due mainly to the use of prior year tax losses.

See Lex

Elders Resources buys first UK holding

BY TERRY POVEY

Australia's Elders Resources, a 48 per cent owned quoted associate of Elders IXL, has taken a 9 per cent stake in Sutcliffe Speakman, the UK activated carbon, solvent recovery plant design and chemical trading company. This is Elders' first reported in-

vestment in a public company in the UK and at present it is only involved in an operation in London called Elders Extrad.

The stake in Sutcliffe was acquired through the purchase of 1.3m new shares issued at 18p to the Australian company. Sutcliffe is the world's oldest maker of activated carbon, a

key element in filtration processes in the resources field and along with the share subscription which is subject to shareholders' approval, both companies also announced that they have entered into "various joint ventures." On news of the link-up with Elders, Sutcliffe's shares rose 8p to close at 19.5p.

Recovery and filtration tech-

Guinness Peat battle awaits Stock Exchange decision

BY TERRY POVEY

THE BATTLE between Guin-

nness Peat Group and its major shareholder Equicorp has shifted towards the Stock Ex-

change with the New Zealand

group pressing for a manage-

ment incentive scheme to be

put to shareholders.

On Tuesday, Equicorp announced that it had increased its stake in GP to 35.6 per cent and made a 110p-a-share bid for the UK banking and fund management group. The group is strongly opposed to a highly-gearred incentive scheme pro-

posed for a team of bankers to run Guinness Mahon, GP's merchant bank, not due until 1992 at the earliest, to be put to the vote within 18 months. If shareholders defeat the scheme

Equicorp argues that the proposed contract should be

viewed as a whole and is there-

fore material now. The

Exchange is believed to be

implementing the scheme. A

further hearing is expected in

about 10 days.

Earlier this week GP con-

sulted the Exchange over a

release giving details of the

incentive scheme.

It appears that the Exchange accepted GP's contention that the initial sale of 5 per cent of

Guinness Mahon was not

material to the group. However,

the Exchange asked for the

share of the option over a

further 45 per cent of the

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UK COMPANY NEWS

City disappointed with AMEC's profit increase

AMEC, the construction group, improved its pre-tax profit by only £700,000 to £1.5m in the first half of 1987, and was disappointed in the results.

The profit was some £1m below expectations, and the shares reacted with a 15p markdown to 325p. The civil engineering side suffered from lumpy profits and the adverse weather.

Mr J. W. Morgan, chairman said overall the group had maintained a steady underlying improvement, and results were consistent with the medium term planned rate of growth. Order books remained high and provided a sound basis for the future.

The group had retained a positive net cash position despite using a significant proportion of the surplus to fund expansion in housebuilding and property development.

The chairman said that overall the performance of the core businesses and investments in newer areas were progressing as planned. With opportunities

for growth emerging, he remained confident in the profitable development of the group.

Turnover in the half year came to £258.8m (£251.9m).

Earnings worked through at 13.2p (12.3p) and the interim dividend is 4.75p net (4.5p).

A break down of profit showed building and Civil engineering £6.6m (£8.1m), mechanical and electrical engineering £3.2m (£2.3m), and property development and housing £3.3m (£2.2m).

Fairclough Building performed strongly, taking advantage of the buoyant south eastern market. Results of civil engineering were reduced because of the start-up costs of several new major contracts.

Performance from the mechanical and electrical engineering companies was encouraging and profits were on the upward trend.

comment

The fall in Amec's civil engineering profits could attract too much attention. Under Alan Cockshaw's direction the group

is clearly repositioning itself so that within a couple of years property development and housing will be challenging for leading profit centre status and the civil side will have learnt to cut its suit to fit the cloth.

House build, through 50 per cent owned associate Fairclough Homes, should double by 1988 to 2,000 units and the development portfolio carries a £180m

sale price tag. However, the first gains from property development will not show up until next year and in the mean time the lumpiness of conservatively taken contract profits will have an erratic impact on the pre-tax line.

Further, the interest received will fall as the cash balance this year will be around half that of 1986 due to a circa £50m spend on housing and development sites. On forecasts of £34m, the shares at 342p are on a prospective p/e of 10; for 1988, 541m pre-tax would produce a multiple of 16.

Overall, the group's divisions for 1988 suggests that the shares could be as much as 70p short of justice.

Inoco £14m rights and disposal

BY PHILIP COOGAN

Inoco announced a further stage in its reconstruction yesterday with a £13.8m rights issue and details of the sale of its Colombian oil and gas interests to Jackson Exploration.

The group joined the market in November 1985 with interests in oil and gas but the fall in the price of oil and a failed bid for a similar company, Petronal, blighted the prospects of the group.

Earlier this year, Inoco built up its asset base by acquiring properties worth £22m and the proceeds of the rights issue will be used to pay off the bulk of its £16.7m worth of borrowings.

The issue is being under-

written by Intertallainz Bank, Zurich, apart from 6m shares which are being taken up by the Monaco Group Fund, leaving the latter with a 19 per cent stake.

Mr David Hudd, who was appointed chairman and chief executive in March, said that the Colombian sale would cut overheads and with the rental income from its properties and its remaining US oil and gas interests, Inoco would now have a strong asset base and cash flow.

Under the three-for-five issue, the rights shares are being offered at 45p compared with the 62p at which the shares closed on Wednesday.

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Refuge premiums up to £77m

BY NICK BUNKER

Refuge Group, the industrial life assurance company, has raised its interim dividend by 15 per cent to 5.75p, after a 14 per cent rise in total life premiums to £77.05m in the six months to June 30.

Refuge does not report an earnings figure until after the year-end actuarial valuation. The share price closed up 13p at 55p last night.

Manchester-based Refuge said ordinary branch new annual premiums rose 60 per cent to £18.8m mainly because of sales for two months earlier this year of a new five-year-term endowment policy.

Total ordinary branch

premiums were up 12 per cent at £18.53m. Premiums for unit-linked products rose from 216.91m to 222.14m.

Industrial branch premiums were £36.41m (£34.31m), with new annual premiums virtually unchanged.

Refuge reported a jump from 500,000 to 528,000 in pre-tax profits from Marlborough Court Fund Managers, which manages three trust funds.

The group made an £87,500 after-tax loss on RLJ Finance,

its personal loan operation. On the non-life insurance side, premium income rose from £6.09m to 7.36m.

Disposal and acquisition programme had resulted in the group's business consisting solely of subsidiaries engaged in the manufacture and sale of high quality of consumer products.

As a result of the seasonal nature of these businesses turnover and profits would now be weighted towards the second six months.

Turnover for the first half fell to 23.97m (£24.7m).

Loss per 25p share worked through at 1.57p (earnings 3.04p). The interim dividend is being held at 0.5p net.

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Bullers in loss midway

Bullers, which embarked on a programme of disposals and acquisitions during the past financial year, yesterday revealed that it had run up a loss of £17.03m pre-tax for the first six months of 1987 compared with previous profits of £42.90m.

However, after taking into account an extraordinary profit of £105m on the sale of Unistar Technical Ceramics in June and provisions for tax and dividends, the Berkshire-based group ended the half year with a retained profit of £662,000.

The directors pointed out that

the group's business consisting solely of subsidiaries engaged in the manufacture and sale of high quality of consumer products.

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NOTICE OF REDEMPTION AND TERMINATION OF CONVERSION RIGHTS

The Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru Securities Co., Ltd.

U.S. \$50,000,000

3 per cent. Convertible Bonds due 2000 (the "Bonds")

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in accordance with Condition 6 (Redemption and Purchase), Paragraph (B), 4th paragraph of the Terms and Conditions of the Bonds, The Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru Securities Co., Ltd. (the "Company") will redeem on September 30, 1987 (the "Redemption Date") all of its outstanding Bonds at the redemption of 100 per cent. of the principal amount thereof together with accrued interest to the Redemption Date.

The payment of the redemption price and accrued interest will be made on and after the Redemption Date upon presentation and surrender of the Bonds (together with all coupons appertaining thereto maturing after the Redemption Date), at the specified office of any one of the Paying Agents listed thereon.

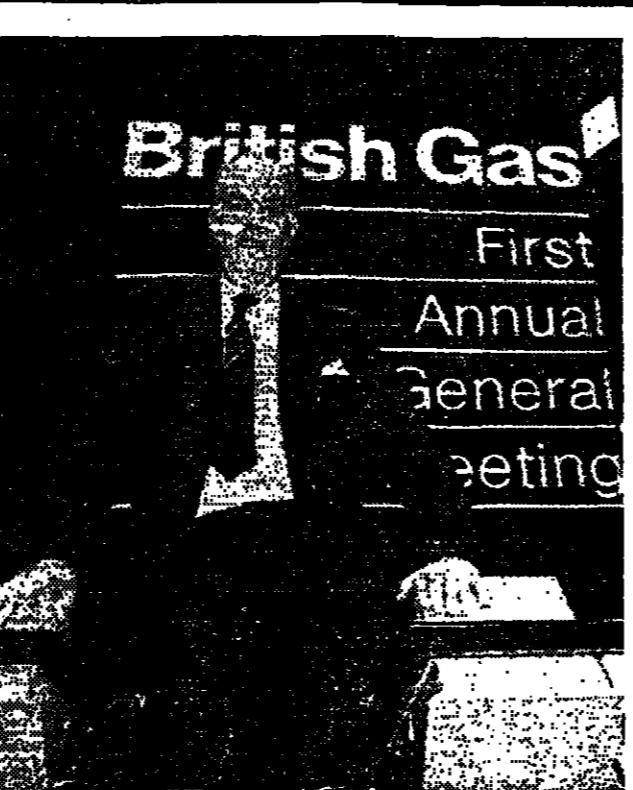
On and after the Redemption Date, interest on the Bonds will cease to accrue.

The Bonds may continue to be converted into shares of Common Stock of the Company at the conversion price of Yen 760.40 per share of Common Stock. SUCH CONVERSION RIGHTS WILL TERMINATE AS TO ALL BONDS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE REDEMPTION DATE.

The Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru Securities Co., Ltd.

By: The Full Bank and Trust Company as Principal Paying Agent

Dated: August 28, 1987



Gas Get-together: Sir Denis Roche, British Gas chairman, at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham for yesterday's first annual meeting of shareholders

UK Land buys £52m property portfolios

UK LAND has bought three portfolios of mixed commercial property and an industrial estate for £52m.

The biggest transaction was with Slough Estates, for £25m. The other sellers were National Provident, Sun Life and Legal and General, all of which are insurance groups.

A quarter of the properties are in the London area and 72 per cent of them are in the south east outside London.

Most of the properties have been acquired for dealing purposes. The total rent roll is worth £3.6m a year.

The acquisitions represent a major addition to the UK Land portfolios, which in September 1986 were valued at £3m.

UK Land paid for the acquisitions out of its own resources and with bank facilities. Its shares yesterday were unchanged at 710p.

THIS NOTICE IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF HOLDERS OF BONDS, IF HOLDERS ARE IN ANY DOUBT AS TO THE ACTION THEY

ACCOUNTANT OR ANY OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISER WITHOUT DELAY.

THE BRITISH LAND COMPANY PLC

(the "Issuer")

Incorporated with limited liability in England

NOTICE

To the holders of the outstanding £3,000,000 7½ per cent.

Convertible Bonds Due 26 March 2002

of the Issuer (the "Bonds") of the

EARLY REDEMPTION ON 29 SEPTEMBER 1987

of all the Bonds of the Issue

Conversion Right Expiry Date: 21 September 1987

Redemption Date: 29 September 1987

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the holders of the Bonds (the "Bondholders") that, pursuant to and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions endorsed on the Bonds (the "Conditions"), the Issuer will on 29 September 1987 (the "Redemption Date") redeem all the Bonds of the Issue, and convert all the Bonds into Ordinary shares of 25p each of the Issuer.

Bondholders will receive a cash payment equal to the principal amount of their Bonds plus accrued interest thereon.

Bondholders have the option to convert the principal amount of the Bonds into Ordinary shares of 25p each of the Issuer, credited as fully paid, at a conversion price of 248p per Ordinary share.

The Stock Exchange Daily Official List, dated 23 August 1987, shows the conversion price of 248p per Ordinary share of the Issuer, as derived from the Stock Exchange Daily Official List, dated 23 August 1987.

Each Bondholder who wishes to exercise his right to convert his Bonds into Ordinary shares, together with all unmatured Coupons, is invited to complete, sign and lodge, with the Principal Paying and Conversion Agent or any of the Paying Agents, a Notice of Conversion with either the Principal Paying and Conversion Agent or to the Paying and Conversion Agents, as set out below, at any time up to the close of business on 21 September 1987, when the conversion rights attaching to the Bonds will terminate.

On redemption, payments of principal and accrued interest will be made in accordance with the Conditions of the Bonds, against surrender of the Bonds and Coupons at the specified office of any of the Paying Agents listed below. Each Bond should be presented for redemption together with all unmatured Coupons appertaining thereto, failing which the amount of any such missing unmatured Coupons will be deducted from the sum due for payment on the redemption date.

The attention of Bondholders is drawn to the Conditions and, in particular, to the Conditions which contain further details regarding redemption and conversion.

PRINCIPAL PAYING AND CONVERSION AGENT

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.Y.

Woolgate House

Coleman Street

London EC2P 2HD

PAYING AND CONVERSION AGENTS

Banque Bruxelles Chase Manhattan Bank Chase Manhattan Bank

Lambert S.A. Luxembourg S.A. Luxembourg Switzerland

24 Avenue Maréchal 47 Boulevard Royal 61 Rue de Rhône

10100 Brussels Luxembourg CH-1234 Geneva

28 August 1987

GAZ DE FRANCE

13% ECU Bonds 1982/1989

On August 14, 1987 Bonds for the amount of ECU 24,751,000 have been drawn for redemption in the presence of a Notary Public.

The numbers of the drawn Bonds are as follows:

11272 to 11802 incl. 11805 to 12270 incl. 12473 to 12486 incl.

13111 to 13122 incl. 13134 to 13134 incl. 13175 to 13223 incl.

13239 to 13249 incl. 13252 to 13306 incl. 13320 to 13364 incl.

13793 to 14023 incl. 14027 to 31616 incl. 13653 to 13793 incl.

Amount purchased in the market ECU 190,000

Amount outstanding ECU 74,822,000

THE FISCHER KREDITBANK S.A. LTD.

Keep's shares suspended as reorganisation talks begin

BY CLAY HARRIS

Keep Trust, industrial holding group with interests including motor dealerships and playground and abattoir equipment, yesterday asked for its shares to be suspended because of discussions about a possible substantial re-organisation.

The suspension followed a sharp rise to 45p, for a market value of £27.7m.

Keep said the proposals would not involve a bid for its ordinary shares. It is also unlikely



Anglo American Industrial Corporation Limited (incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Company Registration No. 63/05282/06

INTERIM REPORT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30 1987
The following are the unaudited financial results of the corporation and its subsidiaries for the six months ended June 30 1987, together with corresponding figures for the six months ended June 30 1986 and the year ended December 31 1986. These should be read in conjunction with the notes below:

	Six months ended 30.6.87	Six months ended 30.6.86	Year ended 31.12.86
R million	R million	R million	
Turnover	1,691	1,466	3,138
Earnings from operations	212	180	397
Share of earnings of associated companies	63	44	118
Dividends	36	33	54
Share of retained earnings after tax	27	11	64
Income from investments	3	1	2
Interest earned	51	28	49
Finance lease charges	27	29	66
Interest paid	54	50	64
Earnings before taxation	91	79	133
Taxation	238	174	433
Earnings after taxation	52	35	76
Outside shareholders' interest in earnings of subsidiary companies	53	42	96
Preference dividends	1	1	1
Earnings attributable to ordinary share-holders	123	96	260
Number of ordinary shares in issue (000)	50,528	50,528	50,528
At June 30 1987 (See Note 1)	53,595	53,595	51,516
Earnings per ordinary share*—cents	253	193	516
Dividends per ordinary share—cents	65.0	55.0	55.0
Interim	65.0	55.0	55.0
Final	65.0	55.0	55.0
Capital expenditure for period—R million	89	61	38.0
Capital expenditure commitments—R million	89	62	49
Group capital employed—R million	4,925	3,921	4,005
Group borrowings—R million	790	1,118	993

* Based on forecast weighted average number of 52,213,359 ordinary shares in issue for the year.

NOTES:

- On June 26 1987 the holders of 2,614,872 options exercised their rights to subscribe for one new Amic ordinary share for each option held at a price of R45 per share. R113,169,240 were raised from this issue and was utilized to repay outside debt. The new shares were issued on July 6 1987. 12,563 options were not exercised and these rights have not lapsed. In addition 255,840 new ordinary shares were issued on July 9 1987 in terms of the corporation's share incentive scheme. As a result of these issues, the issued ordinary share capital has increased to 53,595,715 shares.
- There were no material changes in contingent liabilities from those disclosed in the latest annual report.
- At June 30 1987 all foreign loans taken up by Amic's subsidiary companies were fully covered.
- In the period under review, the group has brought to account extraordinary charges of R6.9 million (1986: R27.9 million). These relate to the group's share of extraordinary losses in subsidiaries and associates.
- Export marketed and certain sectors of the domestic economy performed better than was anticipated at year end and contributed to an increase of 31 per cent in group earnings per share. The first half of 1987 saw both Barr and Board have made increased contributions to group earnings whilst Stew continued to earn satisfactory profits. Highfield recorded slightly lower earnings than in 1986. Amic's major associate ABCI had experienced a successful first half as have all other associates. In view of these improved results the interim dividend has been increased to 65 cents per share (1986: 55 cents). The disruption to the mining industry caused by the miners' strike will have an adverse impact on the results of the Amic subsidiaries and associates serving the industry. Whilst at this point in time it is not possible to quantify this impact, it is anticipated that Amic's earnings for the full year will show an improvement on those for 1986, although the rate of growth is expected to slacken in the second half.

For and on behalf of the board
W G Boustred | Directors
L Boyd

INTERIM DIVIDEND

On August 27 1987 ordinary dividend No. 47 of 65 cents per share (1986: 55 cents), being the interim dividend for the year ending December 31 1987, was declared payable on Friday, October 16 1987 to ordinary shareholders registered in the books of the corporation at the close of business on Friday, September 11 1987.

The ordinary share transfer register and the ordinary section of the register of members will be closed from Saturday, September 11 to Saturday, September 26 1987, both days inclusive. Registered shareholders paid from the United Kingdom will receive the United Kingdom currency equivalent on Monday, September 14 1987 of the rand value of their dividends (less appropriate taxes). Any shareholder may, however, elect to be paid in South African currency, provided that the request is received at the offices of the corporation's transfer secretaries in Johannesburg or in the United Kingdom on or before Friday, September 11 1987.

The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax is 15 per cent.

The dividend is payable subject to conditions which can be inspected at the Johannesburg and London offices of the corporation and also at the offices of the corporation's transfer secretaries.

By order of the board
ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED
Secretaries
per D J Alison
Divisional Secretary

Transfer Secretaries
Consolidated Share Registrars Limited
1st Floor—Edura
40 Commissioner Street
Johannesburg 2001
(PO Box 61051 Marshalltown 2107)

Registered Office
44 Main Street
Johannesburg 2001
(PO Box 61587 Marshalltown 2107)

London Office
40 Holborn Viaduct
London EC1P 1AZ
August 26 1987

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any shares

LESLIE WISE GROUP P.L.C.

(formerly Ladies' Pride P.L.C.)

(Registered in England No. 148834)

INTRODUCTION

TO THE OFFICIAL LIST

OF 28,535,936 ORDINARY SHARES OF 20p EACH

AND PLACING BY

KITCAT & AITKEN & CO

OF 5,500,000 ORDINARY SHARES OF 20p EACH

AT 30p PER SHARE

Share Capital

Authorised
£2,988,000
£12,000Ordinary shares of 20p each
5.6% Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each

The business includes the design, manufacture, processing and merchandising of fashion fabrics and ladies' clothes. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that dealings will commence on Thursday 3rd September 1987.

Particulars of the Company are available in the Exel Statistical Services. Copies of such particulars are available during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturday, Sunday and public holidays excepted), for collection only, from the Company Announcements Office of The Stock Exchange until 2nd September 1987, and up to and including 11th September 1987 from:

Kiteat & Aitken & Co.*
The Stock Exchange
London EC2N 1BB

Leslie Wise Group P.L.C.
346 St Saviours Road
Leicester LE1 4HT

County NatWest Limited
Drapers Gardens
12 Throgmorton Avenue
London EC2P 2ES

28th August 1987
* A member of The Royal Bank of Canada Group

UK COMPANY NEWS

Brodian's new terms given the brush-off by Buckley's

BY NIKKI TAIT

Brodian, a nominee company representing the personal interests of Mr Peter Clowes and Mr Guy Cramer, yesterday raised its cash-only bid for south Wales brewery, Buckley's, from £56.6m to £63.07m.

But the new terms—185p a share against 175p previously—received a further refusal from Buckley's board. Mr Colin Thomas, managing director, said the revised offer was still inadequate and the board strongly advised shareholders to take no action. Buckley's shares closed 4p higher at 175p.

"We've talked to these people and feel that 185p was the level at which they would be likely to accept," he commented.

The higher terms came as Brodian announced that its earlier offer had attracted acceptance on behalf of just 34.1 per cent of Buckley's shares by Wednesday's first close. Added

to the 29.99 per cent stake held by Mr Clowes and Mr Cramer, this gave them control of 53.4 per cent of Buckley's equity.

Mr Cramer said yesterday that the original offer from the two—both directors of James Ferguson Holdings—had not proved attractive to the more substantial investors.

"We've talked to these people and feel that 185p was the level at which they would be likely to accept," he commented.

The new offer, however, has not been declared final. "We want to keep our options open," said Mr Cramer, hinting that a loan alternative might be considered in the future.

A further 6 per cent interest is held by Whitbread Investment Company, the separately quoted investment trust, which holds a number of interests in regional brewers.

PR boosts Charles Barker interims 43% to £2.3m

THE continued strength of its flotation and its hindsight purchase looks better and better. A strong performance from the awfully-named "human resources" division—which includes Broadbent—disguised a poor first half in advertising, as the key companies shifted offices. Although the company hopes that advertising revenues will pick up in the second half, helped by new clients won in the early months of the year, the decision not to raise its 1987 guidance figure is indicative of the revised thrust of the group. Whether the improved PR performance will survive the well-known fiscally-busy tendencies in the sector is hard to assess, but Barker, which was founded in 1812, should be more experienced than most at holding on to staff.

The interim dividend is raised from 1p to 1.1p; the total payment for 1986 was 5p.

• comment

Charles Barker received plaudits for the acquisition of Norman Broadbent at the time

change, they are owned by numerous shareholders who have recently received an unsolicited offer.

Finlan Group, the paper and building materials distributor, is set to become embroiled in a contested takeover battle for Baltic Saw Mills, the private company based in Timbuktu Wells. Although Baltic's shares are not traded on any stock exchange, they are owned by numerous shareholders who have recently received an unsolicited offer.

Finlan Group has announced its 2nd intention to make a bid for Baltic which would value it at no less than £2.4m.

Robertson Research cash call

BY MONA THOMPSON

Robertson Research, supplier of consultancy and technical services to the petroleum, mineral, agriculture and water industries, is to raise £5m by a 2-for-13 rights issue. Up to 4.5m new ordinary shares will be issued at 18p each.

The funds will allow greater flexibility for future expansion, the company said. In addition to developing existing activities—by acquisition, where appropriate—Robertson aims to diversify into forestry management and consultancy.

Existing areas to be developed include environmental consultancy, remote sensing, geothermal technology, cartography and specialist publishing.

The company will also be able to increase its provision of management and technical services in the mineral sector, in which it has recently expanded its direct investments. The group has acquired interests in base and precious metals in

North America and is negotiating further purchases in South America, Spain and the Caribbean.

Directors have limited the total cost of such investments to 20 per cent of the group's net assets, so the new money means the activities can expand.

The issue has been underwritten by Kleinwort Grievson Securities.

In the year to March 31 1987 Robertson made pre-tax profits of £1.2m.

MOTOR DIVISION BOOST FOR BARR & WALLACE ARNOLD

A 14 per cent rise in operating profits by the motor distribution division helped Barr and Wallace Arnold Trust to improve interim pre-tax profits from £161,000 to £269,000. The figures also showed a substantial fall in losses in the holiday and leisure division.

Turnover for the six months to June 30 rose to £71.12m (£67.19m) and earnings per share came out at 6.4p (1.4p). The interim is being raised to 8p (2p) but the directors said the increase was partly to achieve the objective of making the interim payment a third of the total.

Operating profits were £27,000 (£512,000) breaking down as to motors £230,000 (£215,000), leisure and holidays £203,000 (£145,000 loss) and distribution £100,000 below what it could achieve.

LEC partial recovery with £1.1m midway

A GOOD, if partial, recovery was achieved by Lee Refrigeration with pre-tax profits up from a depressed £732,000 to £1.1m in the six months to June 30. In the corresponding periods of 1985 and 1986 profits were £1.22m and £2.13m respectively.

The directors said the improved results reflected the continued progress made since the gold and silver product ranges were launched in autumn 1986. They were hopeful that trading for the remainder of 1987 would exceed that of the second half of last year—pre-tax profits for that period were £1.26m.

Fuel distribution would remain difficult during the rest of the year. However Mr Barr added that the second half result would be up on the same period last year although still below what it could achieve.

Trent surges to £750,000

RESOLUTION of a dispute between its subsidiary, Leaderboard, and a local authority which delayed the start of an £894,689 helped Trent Holdings to push taxable profits up from £155,300 to £752,440 in the 12 months to March 31 1987.

This time round there was an exceptional credit of £80,386 for the Nottingham-based door manufacturer.

Turnover advanced from £5.74m to £7.92m and the direct-

tors proposed an unchanged final dividend of 8.69p, giving the same total—1.15p—as last year. Earnings per share rose substantially, from 1.43p to 7.6p.

Mr Geoffrey Simon, chairman, confirmed that discussions were being held with a number of parties following the informal approaches which were reported at the interim stage. Demand remained buoyant throughout the group, he added.

Tax took £229,498 compared with £86,671 last time.

The interim dividend is maintained at 4p per 25p ordinary.

Guaranteed as to payment of principal, premium (if any) and interest by

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

FINANCIERING MAATSCHAPPIJ D'ORANGEBOOM B.V.

(incorporated with limited liability in The Netherlands with its statutory seat in Rotterdam)

£30,000,000 12½% Bonds 1992

Guaranteed as to payment of principal, premium (if any) and interest by

ALLIED-LYONS PLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the holders of the £30,000,000 12½% Guaranteed Bonds 1992 (the "Bonds") of Financiering Maatschappij d'Oranjeboom B.V. ("FMO") that pursuant to the provisions of the Trust Deed dated 28th October 1982 made between FMO, Allied-Lyons PLC and Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance plc as trustee, FMO has elected to redeem all outstanding Bonds on 28th October 1987 (the "Redemption Date") in accordance with paragraph 8(c) of the terms and conditions of the Bonds at a redemption price of 102 1/2%

UK COMPANY NEWS

Richard Tomkins looks at the remarkable turnaround in the fortunes of Alba

Making the most of new confidence

ONE OF the oldest names in UK consumer electronics is set to mark its resurgence from near-bankruptcy with a flotation on the stock market next month.

Alba, an audio and television company founded some 70 years ago, is coming to the market through a placing sponsored by stockbrokers Alexander Laing & Cuckshank which will value it at about £40m.

The company supplies a wide range of audio, television and video products both under its own brand names—Alba and Harvard—and under customers' own labels. It is at the budget end of the market, supplying the big mail order companies and high street retailers such as Dixons, Comet, Woolworth and Currys.

Alba's roots go back to 1817 when it made its first wind-up phonograph. In later years its range of radiograms, record players and television sets made it a household name across the country.

In the 1970s, however, as imports of consumer electronic goods began to flood into Britain from the Far East, Alba found itself floundering amid the competitive onslaught. By 1982 it was in the hands of the receivers, and the Alba name looked as though it was going to pass into history.

Saviour came in the shape of Harvard International, a trading company, the main business of which was importing consumer electronic pro-

ducts and giftware from the Far East. Its chairman, Mr John Harris, was attracted to Alba because it would give his group two valuable new facets: its own UK manufacturing capacity, and an established brand name. In August 1982, he bought Alba out.

The group now being floated on the stock market consists of both the original Alba and Mr Harris's import business.

The new holding company has been formed under the Alba name with three subsidiaries: Alba Radio, Harvard International,

and the Hong Kong-based Harvard Maritime, which is the group's Far East agent.

The Alba of today is a very different company from the one which went into receivership. The old product ranges which Mr Harris says were not sufficiently price competitive or innovative, were completely redesigned. Further, the combination with Harvard gave Alba access to a wide range of overseas suppliers which could compete with Alba's own factory on price and efficiency: only about 20 per cent of the company's products are now sourced in the UK, though the group continues to manufacture either in the UK or Hong Kong.

The merger of Harvard with a company then in the hands of the receivers was not without its costs. The prospectus for Alba's flotation will show three years of pre-tax losses, reaching



Mr John Harris, executive chairman and managing director of Alba

of radios, cassette recorders, personal stereos and clock radios selling for under £100. The Harvard name has been retained mainly for a range of car radios and cassette players, but it is also used for some of the ranges of giftware products which the group continues to produce.

Products now selling under the Alba name include hi-fi systems, selling in the price range of £70 to £400, video cassette recorders and small-screen televisions selling for £50 to £200, and a wide range

firm in the year to June 1985, as the new management fought to re-establish Alba in the marketplace. In 1986, however, the group turned in pre-tax profits of £1.5m and in the year to June 1987 the figure rose to more than £3.5m.

Mr Harris, now group chairman and managing director, does not consider that this turnaround is attributable simply to the consumer boom.

"I attribute it to getting the range, the pricing, and the features correct," he says.

"We also had to acquire the

confidence of our customers who had seen the company go into decline, and in some cases failing to deliver towards the end. They had to develop new confidence in us, and we are now getting the full value of that."

Another growth area is the export business to Europe, which is proving particularly buoyant and accounts for about 22 per cent of sales. The importance which Alba attaches to styling is reflected in the way it adapts its products to suit the particular tastes of individual countries. Getting the cosmetics as well as the electronics right is essential to a product's success, he says.

Although an element of gimmickry seems to be a feature of many of Alba's products—graphic equalizers, twin cassette decks with high-speed dubbing, and large numbers of knobs and dials—are much to be preferred, the company says, quality is an important element of its recent successes and reflects against suggestions that it is at the bottom end of the market.

Its main competitors, it says, are Bush, Amstrad, Philips, Sanyo and Sharp—all respected names in the high street. There may be more expensive brands in the market but Alba is not ashamed of its popularity approach: "If JVC is a Jaguar, then we are a Ford Escort," it offers in an attempt to give perspective.

All sides help Dunton to double profits

Despite disappointing profits from its associate, the pre-tax result at Dunton Group, USM-owned property developer, brick manufacturer and civil engineering contractor, more than doubled in the year ended May 31.

On turnover ahead from a restated £1m to £2.12m, net profit jumped from £201,583 to £489,153, with increases made in all areas, Mr A. K. Scoville Chairman, looking ahead, said the overall prospects across the group encouraged him to anticipate another good year.

The directors are recommending an increase in the total dividend to 0.5p (0.4p) with a 0.3p (0.24p) final. Earnings per 5p share rose from 0.82p to 1.44p basic, and from 0.75p to 1.35p fully diluted.

Profits of the associate, Harman (Cheshire), at £185,000, were well below the forecast made by Harman at the time. Dunton took its 30 per cent

Combined Lease hits £1.5m

Combined Lease Finance, subject of an offer for sale in April 1986, yesterday reported a £445,000 increase to £1.51m in pre-tax profits for the half year to June 30 1987.

The directors said business had continued to be buoyant during the first half and profit margins and quality of business had been maintained. The financing of business cars continued to represent the major

that would otherwise arise could be deferred.

Group turnover in the first six months rose 48 per cent to £17.52m. Tax, which relates to advance corporation tax attributable to the dividend declared, amounted to £41,000 (£35,000). Stated earnings per share were 7.73p (6.44p).

The company has already announced an increased interim dividend of 0.58p (0.45p)

Alida held to 16% profit rise

A 16 per cent increase in midway pre-tax profit was recorded by Alida Holdings, the packaging group, on turnover up by 25 per cent.

Mr Rex Stone, chairman, said the polythene film division had achieved volume growth but margins had been reduced because of the frequent increases in raw material costs.

The increases, he said, had not been fully recovered in

selling prices. In merchandising and distribution profits rose by nearly 30 per cent with a major improvement by the polymer distribution unit.

Turnover for the first six months of 1987 came to £22.45m (£18m) and the profit to £3m (£1.74m). Earnings were 11.7p (9.7p) and the interim dividend is lifted to 2.5p (2.25p).

The chairman viewed the future with confidence as the group entered its traditional busy second half. Demand for all products had increased rapidly and more success was achieved in lifting selling prices to counter the still increasing raw material cost.

Availability of raw material for making polythene film was becoming tight and it was not expected that raw material costs would fall as in the second half of last year, the chairman warned.

Catalyst on way to good year figures

In the first half of 1987, Catalyst Communications Group, engaged in marketing and media services and quoted on the Third Market, made a pre-tax profit of £302,000 on turnover of £4.14m.

The outlook for the second half was excellent, said the chairman.

In the previous interim period—the nine months to June 1986—turnover was £2.76m and profit £181,000.

Norsk Data success

Norsk Data, the Norwegian mini-computer manufacturer, has finally declared its first full-year profit since its acquisition group, Wordplex, unconditional.

Acceptances received under the offer currently total 69.4 per cent of the equity, which added to Norsk's stake gives the Norwegian company control of 80.5 per cent. The cash terms and share alternative remain open until further notice.

Hoechst

Aktiengesellschaft

Report on the 1st half-year 1987

Steadying of exchange rates and prices

Business development at Hoechst continued during the 2nd quarter 1987 to be influenced by the low exchange rate of the dollar and sustained pressure on prices due to growing competition. The situation has, however, stabilized with comparison with the previous year. At the same time, raw material prices have shown a slight increase in the first half-year.

Under the influence of the new German mercantile legislation, Group sales in the 1st half-year amounted to DM 1.29 billion and were up 4.7 percent above the previous year's level. In the Federal Republic of Germany, sales declined by 3.6 percent to DM 1.05 billion.

Higher sales volume, continuation of good earnings situation in the Group. Sales abroad increased by 7.8 percent to DM 13.34 billion. This figure includes sales of the former Celanese Corporation for March to June amounting to DM 1.80 billion. Without the inclusion of Celanese, business abroad would have declined by 6.7 percent and sales of the Group as a whole by 5.8 percent. The reduction in sales is due in particular to a markedly lower exchange rate compared with the previous year, especially in relation to the US dollar and the pound sterling.

Volume of goods sold rose by 3 percent. The increase was achieved abroad. This applies above all to western Europe and the USA and to the plastic film, plastics and waxes and paints and synthetic resins divisions.

Gross profit before taxes on income rose from DM 1.46 million to DM 1.48 million. Positive factors were above all the inclusion of Celanese and the general improvement in business in the USA. Profits of Latin America and in the Netherlands were below the previous year's level. Profit of Hoechst AG and of the German joint ventures, in which we have a 50 percent share, also declined.

Earnings of Hoechst AG at high level, spite of slight decline. Sales of Hoechst AG fell by DM 541 million to DM 6.82 billion, a drop of 7.4 percent over the previous year. In the Federal Republic of Germany, this decline is mainly price-related. The unfavorable rates of exchange are thus mainly affecting business abroad. In addition, it was necessary to reduce prices.

Sales in Germany in the Federal Republic of Germany showed a slight decline, albeit it was 2.1 percent higher in the previous year.

In Hoechst AG, as in the Group, business in plastic film, plastics and waxes, as well as in paints and synthetic resins, showed an encouraging trend.

The different worldwide situation in the agricultural sector has adversely affected our business in plant protection agents. Pharmaceutical business is especially influenced by the unfavourable rates of exchange.

Capacity utilization was on the whole good. Inventories are below the level at the beginning of the year. Profit on sales on income in Hoechst AG fell by 4.7 percent to DM 744 million. The decline in operating income was to some extent offset by a reduction in non-operating expenses.

Sales development in July was encouraging, the order position has continued to improve. For the second half of the year, too, we expect a continuation of the favourable business situation, particularly in western Europe and the USA. At the same time, there has been a noticeable stabilization of movements in the exchange rates. These two developments should help us to again achieve a good level of sales and income for the year as a whole.

Report on the 1st half-year 1986 (unaudited)

1. Hoechst Group

Sales (DM million)

	1st half-year 1987	1st half-year 1986	Changes absolute in %
Total	17,920	17,115	+805 +4.7
Federal Republic of Germany	4,580	4,750	-170 -3.6
Abrd	13,340	12,365	+975 +7.9

Profit before taxes

DM million

	1,462	1,469	+ 13 -0.9
% of sales	8.3%	8.6%	

2. Hoechst AG

Sales (DM million)

	6,619	7,380	-541 -7.4
Total	3,100	3,334	-234 -7.0
Federal Republic of Germany	2,679	2,845	-166 -6.7
Abrd	3,719	4,026	-307 -7.6

Export percentage

54.5%

54.7%

54.7%

54.7%

54.7%

54.7%

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COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

Rotterdam energy options shelved

BY LAURA RAUN IN AMSTERDAM

PLANS FOR an energy options exchange in Rotterdam have been shelved for the moment because of too little interest from the oil industry.

The European Options Exchange, the Amsterdam-based bourse that is backing the project, insists that a Rotterdam market for energy options or futures still will be launched. But the start-up has been delayed twice now, with the latest launch scheduled for this week, and critics say it may be too late.

The original plans were initially to offer an options contract on gasoil and then to follow with options on crude oil and other refined products. Physical delivery was to be made from supplies in the Antwerp-Rotterdam-Amsterdam (ARA) area, the world's largest agglomeration of oil refining. Rotterdam is a leading market for oil-settling in the spot or non-contract market for crude oil and refined products.

But more recently plans were shifted to make settlement of the gasoil option in cash instead of physical product. Cash settlement was considered more attractive to the 50 exchange

JAPAN'S MINISTRY of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is considering deregulating certain commodity futures markets which it oversees, including precious metals, Reuter reports from Tokyo.

Mr Keiji Miyamoto, director of MITI's Commercial Affairs Office, said plans include increasing the number of contracts for members and non-members, held in individual markets.

Current limits on maximum open positions per investor vary from market to market.

MITI is also considering allowing eligible foreign futures brokers to join its markets under its supervision.

The plan aims to help expand domestic commodity futures markets amid the globalisation of futures trading, Mr Miyamoto said.

MITI and the Agriculture and Finance Ministries share control over Japanese commodity futures trading. MITI regulates gold, silver, copper, rubber, cotton yarn, spun rayon and worsted yarn futures trading.

Controls on commodities futures should be eased, depending on the commodity. Especially among precious metals, futures activity is getting bigger and more participants are joining trading," Mr Miyamoto said.

members who had experience on the European Options Exchange and none in oil trading. None of the Fl 25,000 seats was bought by oil interests.

Now Mr O. J. Verbeek, director of the energy options exchange, says various alternatives are being considered to attract petroleum traders and diversify the market. These include a move back to physical

delivery and the introduction of futures contracts, which are more familiar to traders of the popular energy futures on the New York mercantile exchange.

Several major obstacles remain. One is that London has gained a head start with its energy futures on the International Petroleum Exchange and the more recent introduction of energy options. Earlier

this week the IPE and the New York Mercantile Exchange announced plans to look into the possibility of linking trading.

Another problem is that the European Options Exchange already has its hands full with other big initiatives, such as the recent launch of an option on the major market index and establishment of a separate financial futures market in Amsterdam. Still another hurdle is the delay in construction of a trading floor for a Rotterdam market, which was to be housed in the new world trade centre.

Mr Jan Oskam, the general secretary of the Netherlands Organisation for Oil and Coal Traders, said yesterday that trading in options has started on the Brazilian exchanges to underpin the bullish tone. In sharp contrast, the December

cocoa futures position ended the day 14 down at £1,307.50 a tonne after a bout of speculative buying and short covering.

Traders say the dollar also weighed down cocoa values as did reports of rainfall in Brazilian growing areas, where lack of moisture had been causing concern.

LME prices supplied by Amalgamated Metal Trading.

LONDON MARKETS

COFFEE PRICES

Aug. 26/Sept. 21, 1987 \$/tonne £/tonne

1629.5 1660.5 1629.0 1488.2
(Base: September 18 1987 = 100)

DOW JONES

Aug. Avg. Aug. Month Year

24 24 24 1987 - \$/ptc

Spot 120.98 122.14 127.88

Fut. 131.43 130.52 - 130.65
(Base: December 31 1981 = 100)

INDICES

REUTERS

Aug. 26/Sept. 21, 1987 \$/ptc

1629.5 1660.5 1629.0 1488.2
(Base: September 18 1987 = 100)

DOW JONES

Aug. Avg. Aug. Month Year

24 24 24 1987 - \$/ptc

Spot 120.98 122.14 127.88

Fut. 131.43 130.52 - 130.65
(Base: December 31 1981 = 100)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Aug. 27 + or Month

1987 - \$/ptc

METALS

Aluminium

Free Market

\$1,800/2,025 + 10 974/975

Copper

3 months

\$1,016.5 - 2.5 8109/8105

Gold Troy oz.

3 months

\$1,044.75 + 4.5 8625/8625

Nickel

3 months

\$2,024.5 + 2.5 921/921

Palladium oz.

3 months

\$140.50 + 1.5 8143/8140

Platinum oz.

3 months

\$1,045.00 + 1.5 8143/8140

Silver troy oz.

3 months

\$476.50 + 0.5 8151/8150

Gold Mid.

3 months

\$426.75 + 0.5 8152/8150

Tungsten

3 months

\$2,025.00 + 2.5 8207

Zinc

3 months

\$492.50 + 2.5 8200

tin producers

3 months

\$492.50 + 2.5 8200

OLIVE OIL

Cotton (Phm)

5000/5000

\$428.50

Cotton (Malayan)

5000/5000

\$382.50

Beets

5000/5000

\$382.50

Grape (Phm)

5000/5000

\$382.50

Borage (U.S.A.)

5000/5000

\$382.50

GRAINS

Barley

Nov. 20/Nov. 21, 1987 - \$/tonne

1,000.50 1,000.50 1,000.50 1,000.50

corn, settlement: 1,015.50

Final Korb close: 1,020.50. Ring Turnover: 2,000 tonnes.

Unquoted: + 1.0% bbl. 10% back. c Cent. 1 pound. Cotton output. v Oct. Oct. 20-Sep. 20 Oct-Nov. T Sept. v Nov. Oct. 27

2000

LIVE CATTLE

Aug. 27/Sept. 21, 1987 \$/cent/lb

5,000/5,000

\$1,200.00

5,000/5,000

\$1,200.00

5,000/5,000

\$1,200.00

5,000/5,000

\$1,200.00

5,000/5,000

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CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

Company Notices

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dollar loses ground

DOLLAR remained depressed by disappointing trade figures but failed to break out of its recent trading range, see box of *News about central bank intervention*. The US current account deficit for the second quarter was a record \$39.6bn and coming on top of a wider West German trade surplus in July, dollar sentiment took another bad knock.

However there was insufficient impetus to push the dollar below levels regarded as a trigger for central bank intervention. Nevertheless the dollar's underside remained bearish and most traders were convinced that the US unit was destined to decline further.

D-MARK—Trading range against the dollar in 1987 is 1.8250-1.7690. July average 1.8252. Exchange rate index 146.6 against 148.6 six months ago.

There was no intervention by the Bundesbank at yesterday's fixing in Frankfurt when the dollar was fixed at DM 1.8203 from DM 1.8267 on Wednesday.

Once again the dollar was confined to narrow range but its underlying sentiment remained bearish.

However, there was a general reluctance to push the US unit outside its recent trading range in view of attracting central bank support.

NEWS that the US showed a record deficit in the second quarter of \$19.5bn in the face of an increased West German surplus for July which rose to DM 9.9bn from DM 6.3bn added to the bearish tone.

The US dollar closed at DM 1.8130 down from DM 1.8230 and Y141.95 from Y143.05. Elsewhere it slipped to April 1986 from SPX 51.03 and FPF 6.075, compared with FPF 6.1025. On Bank of England figures, the dollar's exchange rate index fell from 101.6 to 101.

STERLING—Trading range against the dollar in 1987 is 1.6885-1.7076. July average 1.6965. Exchange rate index 72.3 against 72.5 at the opening and 72.0 on Wednesday. The six months ago figure was 68.9.

Sterling finished the day on a firmer note, partly in reaction to its recent decline but also as a reflection of firm oil prices. There was speculation that higher interest rates would be necessary to control any oversteaming of the economy but the market really had nothing to carry any weight over the long weekend and ahead of Tuesday's UK trade figures.

S-DM—NEW YORK

	Aug. 27	Latest	Previous Close
1.8250-1.8260	1.8170-1.8190	1.8170-1.8190	1.8170-1.8190
1.8250-1.8260	1.8170-1.8190	1.8170-1.8190	1.8170-1.8190
1.8250-1.8260	1.8170-1.8190	1.8170-1.8190	1.8170-1.8190
1.8250-1.8260	1.8170-1.8190	1.8170-1.8190	1.8170-1.8190

Forward premiums and discounts apply to the £/US dollar.

STERLING INDEX

	Aug. 27	Previous
8.65	72.2	72.2
9.00	72.2	72.2
10.00	72.2	72.2
11.00	72.2	72.2
12.00	72.2	72.2
200	72.2	72.2
400	72.2	72.2
700	72.2	72.2
1,000	72.2	72.2
2,000	72.2	72.2
4,000	72.2	72.2

CURRENCY RATES

	Aug. 27	Bank of England	Morgan Stanley	Special	Europen	Commercial	Other	Unit
Swiss Franc	—	0.7959	0.7962	0.7962	0.7962	0.7962	0.7962	0.7962
U.S. Dollar	3.5	1.2669	1.2674	1.2674	1.2674	1.2674	1.2674	1.2674
Canadian Dollar	—	1.1974	1.1974	1.1974	1.1974	1.1974	1.1974	1.1974
Australian Dollar	1.75	1.1919	1.1924	1.1924	1.1924	1.1924	1.1924	1.1924
Swiss Franc	—	16.0099	16.0104	16.0104	16.0104	16.0104	16.0104	16.0104
German D-Mark	7.75	4.9043	4.9183	4.9183	4.9183	4.9183	4.9183	4.9183
British Pound	7.75	1.2625	1.2625	1.2625	1.2625	1.2625	1.2625	1.2625
Irish Punt	0.768541	0.775757	0.775757	0.775757	0.775757	0.775757	0.775757	0.775757
Italian Lira	149.58	150.04	149.58	149.58	149.58	149.58	149.58	149.58

*Sterling rate for Aug. 26: 1.6993.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

	Aug. 27	Bank of England	Morgan Stanley	Special	Europen	Commercial	Other	Unit
U.S. Dollar	72.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canadian Dollar	10.11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Australian Dollar	1.1924	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swiss Franc	—	1.1919	—	—	—	—	—	—
German D-Mark	—	—	16.0104	—	—	—	—	—
British Pound	—	—	—	1.2625	—	—	—	—
Irish Punt	—	—	—	—	0.775757	—	—	—
Italian Lira	—	—	—	—	—	149.58	—	—
Yen	224.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Long-term Eurobonds: Two years 8.5-9 per cent; three years 9.5-10 per cent; four years 9.5-10 per cent; five years 9.5-10 per cent; short-term rates are 1% for US Dollars and Japanese Yen; others, two days' notice.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

	Aug. 27	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.	One year	% p.a.
U.S. Dollar	1.6707-1.6725	1.6705-1.6725	1.6705-1.6725	1.6705-1.6725	2.00	1.6705-1.6725	2.00	1.6705-1.6725	2.00
Ireland	—	1.4552-1.4774	1.4552-1.4774	1.4552-1.4774	2.00	1.4552-1.4774	2.00	1.4552-1.4774	2.00
Canada	—	1.1974	1.1974	1.1974	2.00	1.1974	2.00	1.1974	2.00
Australia	—	1.2669	1.2669	1.2669	2.00	1.2669	2.00	1.2669	2.00
Switzerland	—	1.1919	1.1919	1.1919	2.00	1.1919	2.00	1.1919	2.00
UK	—	1.2625	1.2625	1.2625	2.00	1.2625	2.00	1.2625	2.00
Japan	—	1.2625	1.2625	1.2625	2.00	1.2625	2.00	1.2625	2.00
Yen	—	149.58	149.58	149.58	2.00	149.58	2.00	149.58	2.00

*Setting rate: for August 26: Australia 2.2570-2.2710.

MONEY MARKETS

Nervous ahead of trade figures

INTEREST RATES were steady on the London money market yesterday, with three-month interbank unchanged at 10%-10.5 per cent.

There was a general mood of nervousness about next Tuesday's UK trade figures, but a better performance by sterling helped stem the market was quiet ahead of the long holiday week in Britain.

The Bank of England initially forecast a money market shortage of £100m, but revised this to £200m

UK clearing bank base lending rate 10 per cent since August 7.

At noon, and to £350m in the afternoon. Total help of £315m was provided.

Before lunch the authorities bought £200m bills outright, by way of £200m bank bills in band 3 at 9% per cent, and £200m Treasury bills in band 4 at 9% per cent, and £150m bank bills in band 4 at 9% per cent.

In the afternoon another £110m bills were purchased, through £100m Treasury bills in band 4 at 9% per cent, and £200m bank bills in band 4 at 9% per cent.

Bills maturing in official bands, repayment of late assistance and a take-up of Treasury bills drained

£565m, with a rise in the note circulation absorbing £65m. These outweighed Exchequer transactions adding £200m to liquidity and bank balances above target of £100m.

To meet the Bank of England's forecast a money market shortage of £200m, but revised this to £200m

In New York the US Federal Reserve added \$20m to the banking system via customer repurchase agreements, when Federal funds were trading at 10% per cent.

In Frankfurt the West German Bundesbank left its credit policies unchanged at yesterday's monetary council meeting. The discount rate remains at 5 per cent and the Lombard financing rate at 5 per cent.

Call money rose to 3.85 per cent from 3.80 per cent as funds flowed out of the banking system.

Banks holding reserves of funds at the Bundesbank have declined, after a very comfortable start to the month, but in the first 25 days of August averaged DM 52.5bs a day, compared with a minimum average requirement of DM 51.5bn.

Interest rates were steady on the London money market yesterday, with three-month interbank unchanged at 10%-10.5 per cent.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

Continued on Page

FINANCIAL TIMES

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

AMERICA

Firmer interest rates encourage profit-taking

WALL STREET

RENEWED pressure on the dollar yesterday brought an upward drift in interest rates on Wall Street and an excuse for further profit-taking among blue chip stocks, writes Gordon Cramb in New York.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 26.75 lower at 2,675.06.

Volume eased slightly to 163.81 units as advancing issues were outweighed almost two to one by those declining. The NYSE composite index, reflecting the broader trend, was up 1.68 at 185.28.

Reluctance by the federal authorities to intervene in the credit markets with any vigour began to be taken as a possible harbinger of a tougher monetary stance, as yields at the long end rose above the 8 per cent threshold.

IBM, the equity market leader which was hit hard the previous session after a batch of discouraging comments from analysts, recovered little of its poise with a 5.1% drop to \$168.64 as volume remained flat.

Digital added an early 5% after settling a patent dispute with C. Itoh, the Japanese trading house, but was then pushed 3.1% below overnight to close at \$168.94. Unisys eased 3% to \$44.54.

AT&T was to the fore on the actives list but slipped 5% to \$33.00 on news of an order from General Electric, itself 5.1% lower at \$62.34.

Tobacco stocks succumbed to profit-taking after running up strongly all week, as the effects of favourable recent court rulings began to subside. RJR Nabisco was off 3.2% at \$58.64 and American Brands at \$58.00 was down 5%.

Philip Morris relinquished 4% to \$118 after its American trust, a repository for its shares, suspended acceptances from investors because of the market's current premium to the trust's own \$110 a share termination level.

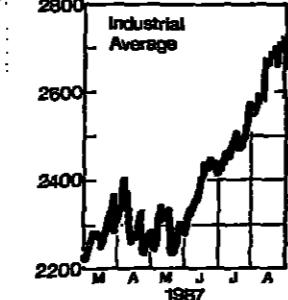
The oil sector traded calmly ahead of Opec talks scheduled in Vienna today. Atlantic Richfield did better than most with a 5.1% rise to \$94. Exxon, \$1.5 firmer at \$98, launched another lawsuit against the beleaguered Texaco, which let go 5% to \$43. Mobil picked up 5% to \$53.44, it is to sell its headquarters lease, reportedly for \$350m.

Ashland Oil shed 5% to \$70.75, near the top of its 52-week range. It started the week strongly and subsequently received a further endorsement from Oppenheimer & Co on the back of a wider spread between crude and refined product prices.

Chrysler lost 5% to \$46 after announcing price cuts ranging to 16 per cent for two new Plymouth and Dodge models. Among the competition, Ford fell 3.3% to \$107.75 - it put a new contract proposal to the United Auto Workers - and GM at \$89.50 was 5.1% weaker.

Lockheed showed particular strength with a 5.1% jump to \$39.50.

DOW JONES



Ian Rodger reports on a challenging new study

Japan market theory contested

THE WIDELY HELD view among foreign investors that the Japanese stock market is highly overvalued is contested in a new study by S.G. Warburg Securities (Japan).

The overvaluation view is based mainly on the relatively high price-earnings ratios in Tokyo. The overall market's p/e was slightly over 70 yesterday compared with about 18 in the London market.

Partly as a result of the high p/e, foreign investors have been large net sellers of Japanese equities for the past three years. Last year they withdrew a net Y3,484bn (\$26.3bn).

According to the Warburg study by Mr Andrew Smithers, the p/e ratio is a very inaccurate guide to values in the Tokyo market and investors should be wary of making comparisons from one market to another without making adjustments for major differences in industry structures and accounting practices.

One of the peculiar characteristics of Japanese corporate ownership is the high level of cross-ownership among companies and banks. Mr Smithers' analysis of the ownership of Tokyo Stock Exchange member companies suggests that "almost exactly half the shares quoted on the TSE are beneficially owned by other quoted companies."

What this means is that most large Japanese quoted companies are also, in effect, investment trusts. "In other markets, investment trusts are generally excluded when calculating the total size of the market, in order to exclude this form of double counting," the study says. But this exclusion is impossible for Tokyo.

The problem with the p/e calculation arises from the fact that the double counting does not extend to the denominator of the ratio i.e. the earnings.

Mr Smithers believes that in almost every case the cross investments consist of holdings of less than 20 per cent of the equity of the companies concerned. Thus, the investment trust earnings, so to speak, of big companies are not included in their consolidated earnings. Only the dividends flow into the consolidated profit and loss account. And Japanese companies pay notoriously small dividends.

After adjusting for these distortions, Mr Smithers shows significant changes in the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) indices at the end of June this year. Whereas the Japanese market's p/e ratio was then 55.2, compared with the UK's 15.7 and 9.0 in the US, the adjustments would bring the Japanese figure down to 34.

He also examines the MSCI price to cash earnings ratios (which remove the distorting effects of different depreciation rates in different countries) and finds that the Japanese p/e would drop from 16 to 8.3 if the double counting was removed. That would leave it lower than the UK's 10.3 and the US's 9.8.

"The purpose of the calculations is not to seek to demonstrate that the Japanese market is cheap, but simply to point out that widely aired statements that it is fundamentally expensive do not stand up to investigation," he says.

Other more refined adjustments would have to be made to arrive at truly fair comparisons. "For example, the quality of Japanese earnings is increased by the relatively low level of inflation and the high exposure to property, but reduced by satellite earnings, which include capital gains realised on securities transactions," he says.

"On balance, we would expect that refinements to the analysis would increase the relative attraction of the Japanese market from the viewpoint of fundamental evaluation."

EUROPE

Blue chips vacillate over dollar, economic news

LONDON

A DIP in the dollar affected export-led stocks on major bourses in Europe yesterday and prompted a new bout of investor wariness. However, some markets were preoccupied with domestic economic news with French shares rising on monetary indicators and Swedish stocks nervously awaiting company results.

Frankfurt saw a second day of uneven trading with an early fall prompted by the dollar's slide, and a late recovery on bargain-hunting. The Commerzbank index lost 1.8%

on generally low volume.

In cars, Daimler-Benz, which lost DM30 over the past four sessions rebounded after large falls in the morning to close up 50 points at DM760 and VW, down DM2.50 to DM440.

Chemicals were mixed. Hoechst added DM2.40 to DM31.90 and BASF dipped DM1.30 to DM33.50.

In the bond market, the Bundesbank sold DM85.5m worth of paper

yesterday.

Amsterdam was depressed by the lower dollar and by disappointing results from insurance companies.

The ANP-CBS fell 2.3 to 323.0 in moderate turnover.

Amet lost FI 7.60 to FI 63.20 and Aegon was down FI 3.10 at FI 66.90

after both announced lower first-half profits. The declines dampened interest in the banking and insurance sector which led other issues downwards.

In international blue chips, Royal Dutch was the only stock to post a

modest gain, adding FI 1 to FI 277.5.

Zurich responded nervously to the lower dollar which affected exporting sectors such as machinery and chemicals, leading the market lower.

Madrid rose strongly in all sectors to take the general index over the 300-level for the first time. The market average ended up 6.59 at 302.45 on increased volume.

Stockholms ended lower in nervous trading prior to the announcement of Volvo's six-month results which came after the close. The Veckans Affärer all-share index lost 3.1 to 1,212.4.

Ole rose as the price of Norway's North Sea oil climbed to over \$15 a barrel. The all-share index added 10.60 to 361.71 as bargain-hunting set in.

Milan moved sharply higher

gain, adding SF 1 to SF 277.5.

Ciba-Geigy shed SF 3.70 and other blue chips were weaker with generally small losses.

Paris edged higher in active trading as foreign investors continued to track back. The CAC index rose 4.8 to 425.5 on renewed expectations of a cut in interest rates which helped financials.

Selected engineering and electronics issues were modestly higher but blue chips slipped as a result of profit-taking.

Brussels ended little changed or slightly lower after a day of quiet trading. The Brussels stock index dipped 4.8 to 5,335.40 and investors

Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney all in peaks

TOKYO

CHEMICALS and pharmaceuticals led Tokyo to a record yesterday as investors shrugged off the downturn on Wall Street, writes Shigeo Nishizaki of *Yomiuri* Press.

High technology stocks, however,

came under pressure.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 select issues climbed 53.04 to 25,963.78, surpassing the previous high of 25,929.42 in mid-June.

At one stage, the average passed the 26,000 mark for the first time when it reached 26,041.41 before dropping back later.

Turnover swelled from 989.38m shares to 1,211.06m. Advances outnumbered declines by 512 to 411, with 120 issues unchanged.

The drop in the Dow Jones industrial average on Wednesday did not deter investors from seeking chemicals, drugs and textiles. These issues are expected to report sharp profit increases in the year ending next March due to rising demand and prices. Market analysts said investment favoured stocks with lower foreign exchange risks and solid high-tech units.

Showa Denko moved to another high, adding Y5 to Y716 in trading of 37.44m shares, while subishi Petrochemical gained Y1,380, also a record, on 1m of 26,86m shares. Furukawa Electric added Y29 to Y747. Sumitomo Chemical rose Y30 to Y229 and subi Petrochemical was up Y1,160.

In textiles, Teijin closed Y30 up Y233 and Tonny was Y20 higher Y365, while Sumitomo soared Y1,230, all records.

Pharmaceuticals gained ground on hopes of new drug announcements during pharmacological meetings scheduled to take place in autumn. Chuai Pharmaceutical

SOUTH AFRICA

A RISE in the bullion price lifted Johannesburg share prices, but trading was cautious after the miners' decision to continue the coal and gold mine strike.

The main share, Vaal Reefs rose R3 to R475. Buffelsfontein put on R1 to R79, and Driefontein added R1.50 to R33.

The rest of the mining sector

was steady or higher, with Impala P.

rose up R1.25 to R56.50, Rus-

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